

Keynote Speaker Bio – Charlie Batch

Charlie Batch, who played football for EMU from 1994-97, enjoyed an outstanding career as quarterback and completed 15 seasons in the NFL with the Detroit Lions (1998-2001) and the Pittsburgh Steelers (2002-12), where he totaled over 60 touchdowns and 11,000 passing yards and played on two Super Bowl teams. Batch earned four letters at Eastern Michigan (1994-97) and graduated with nearly all of the school's passing records, including total offensive yards (7,715), single-season offensive yards (3,229 in 1995) and again in 1997 (3,390), career passing yards (7,592), and career touchdown passes (53), before being drafted by the Lions in the second round of the NFL Draft in 1998.



Batch was named Eastern Michigan's Most Valuable Player in 1997 and earned first team All-MAC honors in 1995 after leading the team to a 6-5 record. He was drafted in the second round of the 1998 NFL draft by the Detroit Lions as the 30th overall selection. He led the MAC in passing efficiency in 1995 at 129.73 and topped the league in total offense during the 1997 campaign at 308.2 ypg. Batch ranks 28th in MAC history in yards in a career (7,592) and 29th in career touchdown passes (53).

In retirement, he has continued to be a respected strategist in the NFL, providing game commentary for national sports outlets including CBS, FOX, NBC, ABC, ESPN, NFL Network, SiriusXM NFL Radio and Yahoo Sports. Batch resides in Pittsburgh, Pa. and currently works for KDKA-TV in Pittsburgh as a pre-game analyst for the Steelers as well as a color commentator for their preseason games. He also serves as Senior Captain for The Trust Powered by the NFLPA, an initiative that Mr. Batch helped negotiate in 2011 with NFL team owners, and he helps former players achieve their dreams after football as a Transition Consultant for the NFLPA.

Batch is a co-founder of the Ann Arbor/Pittsburgh/Seattle-based sports technology company, Impellia, which provides sensor-based technologies that empower sports medicine professionals and athletes with a user-friendly platform from which they can objectively quantify and monitor human movement and physiology to provide personalized, actionable data to improve athletic outcomes.

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His interest in sports medicine extends to research as well. Mr. Batch is a Player Advisor on the Football Players Health Study at Harvard University and an Advisory Council Member for the University of Pittsburgh Brain Institute.

He has established himself as a community advocate, philanthropist and public speaker. In 1999, he created the 'Best of the Batch Foundation,' a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and families in disadvantaged communities by building character, self-esteem, and appreciation for education. The Batch Foundation serves more than 3,800 youth annually through several programs, including sports & recreation, STEAM labs, computer literacy, reading, mentoring & tutoring, scholarships and many more. The Batch Foundation also provides community support, including its annual 'Batchpacks For Kids' school supply and 'Batch-A-Toys holiday toy giveaways. His foundation hosts education-based sports programs as well, such as the annual Project C.H.U.C.K. (Continually Helping Uplift Community Kids) summer basketball league to promote sportsmanship, reading literacy and life skills in his hometown of Homestead, PA.

In addition to his own foundation, Batch is a member of the board of directors of the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, the Humane Animal Rescue and the University of Pittsburgh Brain Institute Advisory Council. He is also a local advisor for Google's Pittsburgh Impact Challenge. Batch is a recipient of numerous awards, including the 2015 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Western Pennsylvania & West Virginia and the Pittsburgh Steelers' 2006 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award. In 2013, he received the NFLPA Byron "Whizzer" White Man of the Year Award, the United Way of Allegheny County Outstanding Campaign Volunteer of the Year and the Baptist Ministries Conference Award, "Hero in the Midst."

He is a National Speakers Association (NSA) professional speaker, and has completed several NFL Business Management, Communications and Entrepreneurial programs through Harvard Business School, Wharton School of Business, Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, Stanford University Graduate School of Business, the University of Notre Dame, Bowling Green State University and Babson College.

Batch graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a degree in criminal justice in 1997 and in December of 2017, he completed his Masters of Science degree in Organizational Leadership from Robert Morris University. In 2018, he received an honorary Doctorate in Philanthropy from Bethany College, and he received an honorary Doctor of Public Service Degree from Eastern Michigan in 2015. In 2014, he received an honorary Degree of Doctor of Human Letters, Honoris Causa, Public Service, from La Roche College. In 2013, he was presented with an honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service from Washington & Jefferson College.