



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters®**
OF SOUTHWEST
MICHIGAN

Benefit Dinner 2026

Everyone needs mentors – people to encourage, guide, and empower your potential as you discover who you are meant to be.

We call these mentors Bigs.



with Guest Speaker

PAT FERSCHWEILER

Head Coach - Ice Hockey

Western Michigan University

Monday, June 1st

Radisson Plaza Hotel

DO
SOMETHING
BIG

CONTACT US

269-382-6800

3501 Covington Rd. | Kalamazoo, MI | 49001

34 West Jackson | Battle Creek, MI | 49017

ThinkBigToday.org

Serving Kalamazoo, Allegan, Calhoun, and Van Buren counties

Since 1978, the Annual Benefit Dinner has played an important role placing Bigs into the lives of local children.

Bigs help the children they mentor realize their potential. Bigs and Littles develop one-to-one friendships that ignite the power and promise of youth in our community.

By supporting the Annual Benefit Dinner, you play an important role in ensuring the success of our one-to-one mentoring programs: from recruiting new Bigs, to matching them with a Little, and then providing professional support for the life of the match.

Thank you for your support!

PAT FERSCHWEILER: LEADING THE BRONCOS TO HISTORIC HEIGHTS

Pat Ferschweiler was named the head coach of Western Michigan's hockey program on August 3, 2021. In his time as WMU's head coach, Ferschweiler has accumulated 123 wins, including 70 victories in conference play. In four seasons, he has coached four All-Americans, 12 All-Conference players, 11 NCHC individual award winners, two national goal leaders and one Hobey Baker Finalist. Off the ice, Ferschweiler has seen the Broncos amass 99 NCHC Academic All-Conference honors and 62 NCHC Distinguished Scholar Athletes. The Broncos had a program-high 21 players earn NCHC Academic All-Conference honors in 2021-22. Nationally, 11 players have secured All-American Scholar status.

Ferschweiler took the program to new heights in 2024-25, winning the Penrose Cup, NCHC Frozen Faceoff and NCAA Division I National



Championship. Those were all firsts for the program. The team won a program-best 34 games, which led to Ferschweiler being named the Spencer Penrose Award winner, which is given annually to the Division I Coach of the Year. Along with that, he claimed College Hockey News, USCHO and NCHC Coach of the Year recognition.



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EVENT SCHEDULE

Registration
5:15 to 6:30PM

Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres
5:15 to 6:30PM

Opening Remarks
6:30PM

Dinner

Awards

Silent & Live Auctions

Raffle

Guest Speaker Pat Ferschweiler

TICKETS

Tickets may be purchased [here](#)
or by calling **269-382-6800**

PREVIOUS GUEST SPEAKERS

2025	Greg Kampe	2012	Tom Izzo	2000	Ernie Harwell	1988	Joe Theismann
2024	Jerome Bettis	2011	Jim Schwartz	1999	Bill Walton	1987	Gary Player
2023	WMU Coaches Panel	2010	Greg Jennings	1998	Kirk Gibson	1986	Jack Brickhouse
2022	Jim Craig	2009	Lindsay Tarpley	1997	Sparky Anderson	1985	Ben Davidson
2021	Wade Boggs	2008	Mark Dantonio	1996	Mike Singletary	1984	Mickey Spillane
2019	Austin Hatch	2007	Bob Griese	1995	Bill Laimbeer	1983	Bart Starr
2018	Gregory Kelsner	2006	Charlie Weis	1994	Rick Pitino	1982	Al McGuire
2017	Tim Lester	2005	Mike Ditka	1993	Johnny Bench	1981	George Plimpton
2016	Kirk Cousins	2004	Sugar Ray Leonard	1992	Dick Vitale	1980	Dick Butkus
2015	Lloyd Carr	2003	Chris Spielman	1991	Bobby Knight	1979	Rocky Bleier
2014	Jim Caldwell	2002	Bo Schembechler	1990	Terry Bradshaw	1978	Monte Clark
2013	John Beilein	2001	Tom Izzo	1989	Mickey Mantle		