

JOIN US FOR THE NINTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION SYMPOSIUM

An annual gathering around a topic of importance.

2022 Focus: Early Childhood Literacy

Thursday, September 1, 2022

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Randolph Riverfront Center, Alexandria, LA (Also available through Zoom webinar)

READ TO A BETTER FUTURE

Children who struggle to read are subjected to harsh consequences including poverty, incarceration and failure to complete high school. Malcolm Mitchell grew up with similar challenges, but during his freshman year of college, a newly developed love of reading changed his trajectory.

In his presentation, Malcolm focuses on the transformational power of reading through his personal story and literacy-based research. Central to his message is self-empowerment, cultural relevancy and reading as a super power.



Featured Speaker: Malcolm Mitchell

Super Bowl Champion, Author and
Founder/CEO of Share the Magic Foundation



This program is free, but registration is required.
Visit www.rapidesfoundation.org/symposium to register.



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION



The Symposium is in recognition of the creation of The Rapides Foundation on September 1, 1994.



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2022 Focus: EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY

FEATURED SPEAKER:

Malcolm Mitchell



Malcolm Mitchell is a native of Valdosta, Georgia. As a high school senior, he was an Under Armour All-American and went on to finish in the top ten all-time receivers during his playing career at the University of Georgia (UGA). While a student athlete, Malcolm was recognized as the National Captain of the Allstate Good Works Team for his visits to elementary schools to read to students and talk about literacy, the first student ever at UGA to win this honor. He also received the National Haier Achievement Award for his success beyond athletics. Additionally, Malcolm was the recipient of the Atlanta Sports Council Community Service Award, the Georgia Chapter of the National College Football Hall of Fame Jack Turner Award, and the UGA Student Athlete of the Year Award. He graduated in December 2015 from the University of

Georgia with a degree in Communications. In May 2016, Malcolm was drafted by the New England Patriots, and in February 2017 he became a Super Bowl Champion.

During his freshman year in college, Malcolm developed a love of reading. Initially, reading was a challenge, however, through perseverance, books became an avenue for expanding his curiosity, creativity and learning. In 2015, Malcolm authored and published a children's book, *The Magician's Hat*, and created a youth literacy initiative called Read with Malcolm. In 2016, he established a 501(c)3 organization, Share the Magic Foundation, whose mission is to transform children's lives through literacy. Since its founding, the Foundation has placed books in the hands of more than 65,000 young readers and provided Read with Malcolm Literacy Programs to over 300,000 students. In 2021, the Foundation received the Chick-fil-A True Inspiration Award for its work in under-resourced communities. Today, Malcolm is a Scholastic author and two-time Children's Author of the Year by the Georgia Writers Association.

In 2017, Malcolm was honored at the 20th Anniversary of the President's Summit for America's Future and received the Promise Hero Award for his contributions to youth in America by the America's Promise Alliance. He received Foundations Incorporated's Champion of Children Award and the Pinnacle Award from The International Dyslexia Association for his contributions to individuals with reading differences, and in 2018, he received the Youth Literacy Award from Read to a Child. Among Malcolm's numerous awards and accomplishments, both on and off the field, he considers discovering a love of reading one of his greatest achievements.



**The Symposium is free and open to the public, but registration is required.
Register for the Symposium at www.rapidesfoundation.org/symposium.**



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

Working together for healthier communities

www.rapidesfoundation.org/symposium