

Parkland's Aimee Mullins speaks at Via banquet

Aimee Mullins has modeled for designer Alexander McQueen, made People magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People in the World" list, ranked as Sports Illustrated's "Coolest Girls in Sport," is among Esquire's "Women We Love," and has been named as one of Jane magazine's "10 Guttiest Women."

On March 25, Mullins, born without fibulae in both legs, returns to her Lehigh Valley "stomping grounds" as keynote speaker for the 34th Annual Via All-Star Basketball Classic, beginning 6 p.m. at Freedom High School.

The Parkland High honors



grad will share insights about overcoming obstacles to make dreams come true.

Following graduation, Mullins was one of three students in the United States chosen for a full Department of Defense academic scholarship, and at age 17 became the youngest person to hold a top-secret security clearance

at the Pentagon, working there as an intelligence analyst during summer breaks.

While a dean's list student at the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, she set her sights on making the U.S. Team for the 1996 Atlanta Games. Under the expertise of track coach Frank Gagliano, Mullins became the first woman with a disability to compete in the NCAA.

The use of woven carbon-fiber prostheses modeled after the hind legs of a cheetah helped enable Mullins to set World Records in the 100 meter, 200 meter, and long jump as a member of Georgetown's Divi-

sion 1 track team.

The Via All-Star Basketball Classic raises funds for Via's services for people with disabilities so they can connect and live in their communities. Via of the Lehigh Valley provides services for children and adults with disabilities like autism, cerebral palsy and Down syndrome.

The banquet, hosted by Freedom High School, recognizes members of the Via All-Star teams, Players of the Year, Teams of the Year, awards scholarships for student athletes and inducts members into the Lehigh Valley High School Basketball Hall of

Fame.

Following the banquet, the excitement continues with the 34th Annual Via All-Star Basketball Classic supporting Via of the Lehigh Valley's Employment Services. The 10 Via All-Star teams feature the 80 best male and female high school basketball players in the greater Lehigh Valley. Games begin 10:30 a.m. March 28 at Northampton Community College, Green Pond Campus, Bethlehem Township.

Banquet tickets: 484-893-5389, www.ViaNet.org

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Aimee Mullins, 6 p.m.
March 25, Freedom High
School