

LSU | COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Hosted MKG

Speaker overview

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, also known as “MKG,” is a professional American basketball player who has played in the National Basketball Association (NBA) since 2012. He first gained national attention in high school as a McDonald’s All-American and was named Mr. Basketball USA. Michael went on to play college basketball for the University of Kentucky and Coach John Calipari where he and his teammates won the 2012 NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Tournament. He was selected as the second overall pick in the 2012 NBA Draft by the Charlotte Bobcats. Throughout his NBA career he has played for the Charlotte Bobcats/Hornets, Dallas Mavericks, and New York Knicks.

Michael may be best known for his basketball career, but there is so much more to him than his basketball skill.

In 2021, he founded *Change & Impact, Inc.*, a stuttering initiative with a mission to improve access to healthcare and expand services and resources for those who stutter. The charge of Change & Impact is a deeply personal one as Michael is also a person who stutters.

While spending time in the NBA ‘bubble’ in 2020, Michael began reflecting on his own personal journey as a person who stutters. He considered how to turn his knowledge and experience into actionable and meaningful ways to help others who stutter. Change & Impact is focused on raising awareness for stuttering, bringing together key stakeholders to improve the quality of life for those who stutter, and working on behalf of the stuttering community to improve insurance coverage for speech therapy.

As an advocate for the stuttering community, Michael regularly appears as a guest speaker at colleges and universities across the nation that offer undergraduate and graduate programs in the disciplines of audiology and speech-language pathology. He also makes appearances as a guest speaker at camps and conferences focused on stuttering.

Michael is a proud husband, father, son and brother with strong family values, and a steady commitment to helping others.

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