

Elana Meyers Taylor



Elana moved to Douglas County from California when she was in second grade, and graduated from Lithia Springs High School in 2002. She went on to attend George Washington University where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees. She also has an MBA from Keller Graduate School of DeVry University.

Elana came from a sports oriented family her father was a running back for the Atlanta Falcons and the family enjoyed participating in and watching sports especially the Olympics.

Elana played professional softball prior to bobsledding but in 2007 when that sport was cut from the games she set out to reinvent herself in a winter sport she knew little about. With this change she compiled many medals at World Championships in bobsledding. These lead to participation in the Olympic games which for women bobsledders debuted in 2002. In 2010 at the Vancouver, Canada games she won the bronze medal as brakeman for the two-man USA team with their sled finishing only 1.12 seconds out of first. At the 2014 games in Sochi, Russia she became the sled pilot and took the silver medal. In the 2018 Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea she again took the silver medal and became the first woman to compete in three Winter Olympic Games. In 2022 in Beijing, China she earned a silver medal in the debut of the monobob event, the newest rocket-on-ice sport. She also won a bronze medal in the two-man event where she was again the pilot. With these accomplishments she made history in the Beijing Winter Games by becoming the most decorated Black athlete in Winter Olympic history. She now has more medals than any women's bobsledder at the Olympics and two more than any other Olympic bobsledder, male or female, in U. S. history. Elana was to carry the U. S. flag in the opening ceremonies but was unable to do so due to COVID, she did however, carry the flag in the closing ceremonies.

In 2014 at the seventh annual gala awards dinner at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Elana was named Women's Bobsled Athlete of the Year. Not only is she an Olympic champion she is a four-time World Champion,

eight-time World Championship medalist and the 2015 World Cup Champion in bobsled. In 2015 she became the first woman to earn a spot on the U. S. National Team competing with the men as a four-man bobsled pilot. She became the first woman to enter in international competition in a men's event.

Elana is an Athlete Mentor for Classroom Champions, a non-profit organization partnering Olympic and Paralympic athletes with students and teachers in underserved communities. This organization empowers children to thrive socially, emotionally and academically through mentorship of world class athletes.

Elana is an advocate for female athletes and females. She writes that she "has a responsibility to fight for equality for those who can't." She loves the responsibility.

In January 2019, she began her term as president of the Women's Sports Foundation. This foundation is dedicated to creating leaders by ensuring girls access to sports. Established in 1974 by Billie Jean King, it works to advance the lives of girls and women through sports and physical activity.

Upon her engagement to U. S. national team bobsledder, Nicholas Taylor she was chosen to be on TLC's "Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta." The show took place at Bridals by Lori, a boutique in the north Atlanta suburb of Sandy Springs and follows soon-to-be brides searching for the perfect wedding dress and highlights the emotions of the bride and her family and friends when she finds the perfect gown. The episode was titled "Gold Medal Gown: and aired on TLC on Friday July 18, 2014. She and Nick married on April 24, 2014. Elana and Nick welcomed son Nico in 2020.

Elana was inducted into the Douglas County Hall of Fame on May 14, 2010.