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### **Missouri School for the Blind Teacher takes Gold at International Jiu-Jitsu Competition**

Adnan Gutic, a teacher and graduate of Missouri School for the Blind (MSB) in St. Louis, took first place at the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (IBJJF) Pan-American Championship on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at the Bren Events Center of University of California, Irvine. Gutic competed in the Blue Belt Master 1 Male Middle weight category; this win makes him the champion of that division for North and South America.

Gutic, valedictorian of the 2005 graduating class of MSB, now teaches braille at the school as well as coaches wrestling and goalball. While a student, he was active in student council and Boy Scouts, class president, Beta Club president, and a member of the wrestling, goalball, track, swimming, and forensics teams. He won conference medals for each sport at least once, and as a junior helped MSB win the North Central Association of Schools for the Blind (NCASB) conference championships in swimming, wrestling and track. His senior year Gutic was awarded "Outstanding Athlete" at the NCASB conference track meet after winning three gold and two silver medals and in wrestling was undefeated for the season, won his weight class at the NCASB championship, and set a record that still stands for fastest pin in the NCASB finals.

After graduating MSB, Gutic attended Lindenwood University where he majored in physical education and was an Academic All-American. He was a member of the wrestling team that won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Wrestling Championships in 2005, 2007 and 2008.

Currently, Gutic trains at North Broadway Jiu Jitsu and White Dragon Judo Club. He's competed internationally in judo competitions since 2009 and was a member of the Parapan American Games teams in both 2011 and 2015. His future goals in martial arts include winning a gold medal in judo at the Paralympics and becoming the IBJJF world champion.

**About MSB:** Missouri School for the Blind offers educational and outreach services for legally blind Missouri children from birth through age 21 and their families. MSB is operated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the State of Missouri and its services are free of charge. MSB's services are concentrated in two areas – its centerbase kindergarten-grade 12 school in St. Louis, Missouri, and its Outreach services offered throughout the state.