

Kevin B. Kumpf

Kevin Kumpf was born on October 6, 1978, in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and he has been a dedicated practitioner of Isshinryu Karate for over four decades. In 1984 he began training in Isshinryu Karate in Pittsburgh under Sensei George Denson, an affiliate black belt of Hanshi William H. Duessel, 10th Dan. In 1989, Kevin began training directly with Hanshi Duessel, who served as his primary instructor until his passing in 2014. Kevin received his first five black belt promotions directly from Hanshi Duessel. In 2024, he achieved the rank of Hachi Dan (8th degree black belt), the promotion was authorized by O'Sensei Kichiro Shimabuku, President of the Isshinryu World Karate Association (IWKA). Kevin is the youngest person ever promoted to Hachi Dan by O'Sensei Kichiro Shimabuku.

Kevin has distinguished himself as a practitioner and as a tournament competitor. He is the only individual in the history of the IWKA Isshinryu World Karate Championships to win the Kata and Kumite Grand Championships along with the Black Belt Kata, Kumite, and Weapons Divisions in one event. Between 1999 and 2013, he won seven IWKA Grand Championships, the most of any competitor, including five consecutive IWKA Kata Grand Championships. Kevin is the most successful competitor in the 51-year history of the Isshinryu World Karate Association. His competitive success extends beyond the IWKA as he was awarded the Isshinryu Hall of Fame (IHOF) Men's Overall Grand Championship in 2000. Later that same year, Kevin received Competitor of the Year recognition from the Isshinryu Hall of Fame and the Okinawa Isshinryu Karate Kobudo Association (OIKKA).

Beyond his competitive successes, Kevin has promoted Isshinryu Karate and supported the IWKA by co-hosting the 2009 and 2024 IWKA Isshinryu World Karate Championships. Additionally, as a founding Executive Board member of the WHD Affiliation and the Chief Executive Officer of the Isshinryu Karate Academy of Pittsburgh, Kevin actively works to preserve the legacy and teaching philosophy of Hanshi Duessel.

Kevin's academic and professional achievements complement his martial arts ability. He earned a PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision from Duquesne University in 2014. Alongside his wife, Dr. Cristina Rivera-Kumpf, they co-founded Illuminations Counseling and Supervision Services, a Pittsburgh based private practice specializing in treating adults with complex emotional trauma, addictive disorders, among other behavioral health conditions. Lastly, Kevin and his wife Cristina are extremely proud to share one fiery daughter together, Arianna Cristina Kumpf.

