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## **WeCOACH to Host 2023 NCAA Women Coaches Academy Programs**

May 15, 2023 – WeCOACH will host its premier programs, the 52<sup>nd</sup> class of the NCAA Women Coaches Academy (WCA) and the 6<sup>th</sup> class of the NCAA Academy 2.0 in Denver, Colorado from May 21-24, 2023. This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women Coaches Academy, made possible through a longstanding partnership with the NCAA.

Highlighting these two Academies is keynote speaker, Dawn Staley, Head Women’s Basketball Coach at the University of South Carolina. Coach Staley is a two-time national champion coach and member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame. She’s one of the most decorated participants in United States women’s basketball history having won three Olympic gold medals with Team USA as a player and later was head coach of another U.S. gold-medal winning team.

As part of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, a record-setting 102 women coaches, of all experience levels and sports, will be participating in WCA Class #52. NCAA Academy 2.0, a master learning program, will feature 20 coach participants. The classes include representation from NCAA Divisions I, II and III as well as NAIA, community colleges, the U.S. national team, and internationally.

“The NCAA is excited to partner with WeCOACH on the 2023 NCAA Women Coaches Academy programs, where some of the most talented collegiate women’s coaches will have the opportunity to elevate their leadership skills and hear the experiences of championship coaches,” said DeeDee Merritt, Director of NCAA Leadership Development. “The Women Coaches Academy and the Academy 2.0 programs provide today’s coaches with enhanced strategies and operations they can use during their season that may also translate to better student-athlete experiences. We look forward to engaging with the coaches as they work toward their professional and personal development.”

Over 2,100 graduates have participated in the NCAA WCA, a program designed for women coaches to elevate their holistic coaching effectiveness by learning advanced leadership skills and strategies that directly affect their personal and team success. Participants focus on non-sport-specific concepts in an environment that fosters inclusion across the sports community. The NCAA Academy 2.0, exclusively created for WCA graduates, is a master-learning opportunity in a small class setting that progresses on the leadership, strategies, and knowledge gained from their WCA experience.

WeCOACH septupled (multiplied by seven times) [Academy scholarships](#) funding provided to this year’s participants thanks to generous funding from Hudl, Endeavor, Natasha Watley Foundation, along with numerous individual donors. In addition, the United States Marine Corps have partnered to sponsor this

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year's Academy graduation ceremonies and will feature a Marine representative offering closing remarks to both classes.

"The Academy experience is truly magical in terms of the powerful knowledge gained and lasting relationships formed. Our graduates leave feeling empowered, inspired and motivated to be the best possible leaders for the student-athletes they coach, and the data demonstrates our Academy graduates remain in the coaching profession at a higher rate than the national average. Our staff and Board have once again assembled a stellar lineup of faculty to pour into the participants and we look forward to unveiling some new traditions as part of our WCA 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration," said Vanessa Fuchs, CEO of WeCOACH.

WeCOACH thanks the NCAA for its longstanding support of these transformational programs along with this year's partners: Marines, Hudl, Endeavor, Truist, Gatorade Performance Partner, Athlete Assessments, The Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport, Human Kinetics, Natasha Watley Foundation, and The Sports Bra Project.

### **May 22-24 NCAA Women Coaches Academy Class #52 Participants:**

Desi Abeyta, Sonoma State, Head Coach, Basketball  
Courtney Allen, Shenandoah University, Head Coach, Softball  
Morgan Allison - Prokhin, St. Francis College, Assistant Coach, Water Polo  
Vernisha Andrews, Florida Southern College, Assistant Coach, Basketball  
Raquel Atawo, Washington State University, Head Coach, Tennis  
Vanese Barnes, Tufts University, Graduate Assistant Coach, Basketball  
Angelica Baylon, California State University Stanislaus, Assistant Coach, Basketball  
Madeline Beal, DePaul University, Assistant Coach, Volleyball  
Sam Benzing, College of St. Scholastica, Assistant Coach, Skiing  
Kari-lei Berry, Notre Dame of Maryland University, Head Coach, Lacrosse  
Ashley Bishop, Bridgewater State University, Head Coach, Field Hockey  
Priscilla Brooks, California State University San Bernardino, Assistant Coach, Basketball  
Coretta Brown, Eastern Kentucky University, Assistant Coach, Basketball  
Liz-Amanda Brown, South Carolina State University, Head Coach, Soccer  
Tyler Brown, Illinois Wesleyan University, Assistant Coach, Volleyball  
Leanne Cardoso-Bastos, Allegheny College, Assistant Coach, Soccer  
Britney Carrington, USA Wrestling, Head Coach, Wrestling  
Katrina Carter, University of California at Berkeley, Assistant Coach, Field Hockey  
Dani Castro, Indiana University, Assistant Coach, Field Hockey  
Kara Christian, Presbyterian College, Head Coach, Acrobatics & Tumbling  
April Cornell-DeAngelis, Colgate University, Head Coach, Field Hockey  
Jazmine Craig, St. Francis College, Assistant Coach, Volleyball  
Sarah Dessner, Georgian Court University, Assistant Coach, Basketball  
Michele Dombrowski, The University of the South, Head Coach, Lacrosse & Field Hockey  
Emiria Dunn, Sonoma State, Head Coach, Soccer  
Sara Emerich, Manchester University, Head Coach, Softball  
Kate Faix Bennett, Las Positas College, Head Water Polo Coach, Assistant Swimming & Diving Coach  
Treasure Fields, Baylor University, Director of Operations, Acrobatics & Tumbling  
Lauren Flowers, California State University Stanislaus, Head Coach, Volleyball  
Megan Frazer, Stanford University, Assistant Coach, Field Hockey  
Sareea Freeman, Events DC, Volleyball  
Bronwen Gainsford, Wittenberg University, Head Coach, Field Hockey  
Sade Gant, North Central College, Graduate Assistant Coach, Track & Field  
Laura Gebhart, Penn State University, Associate Head Coach, Field Hockey  
Grace Goodbarn, Centre College, Head Coach, Field Hockey  
Christine Griffith, Cleveland State University, Head Coach, Fencing

Jane Grimley-Gunn, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Head Coach, Soccer  
Caitlin Hadzimichalis, King's College, Head Coach, Basketball  
Myia Hambrick, University of Utah, Volunteer Assistant Coach, Gymnastics  
Michaela Hamilton, Olivet College, Head Coach, Softball  
Nicole Hannan, Volleyball Australia, Assistant Coach, Volleyball  
Kaylee Harnen, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Assistant Coach, Ice Hockey  
Jaleesa Harper, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Head Coach, Volleyball  
Perrella Harris, Morgan State University, Associate Head Coach, Acrobatics & Tumbling  
Annabel Harvey, Henderson State University, Head Coach, Tennis & Cross Country  
Jeri Jacobson Owsley, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, Head Coach, Basketball  
Megan Jensen, Washington College, Assistant Coach, Soccer  
Sara Johnson, University of Minnesota, Director of Operations, Soccer  
Kamille Jones, University of Illinois Springfield, Head Coach, Volleyball  
Sydney Kanne, Willamette University, Assistant Coach, Swimming  
Samantha Kastner, Notre Dame of Maryland University, Head Coach, Softball  
Grainne Kelly, Illinois Wesleyan University, Head Coach, Lacrosse  
Jordan Koehler, Saint Mary's College, Head Coach, Golf  
Diana Kussainova, Georgetown University, Assistant Coach, Tennis  
Erin Labasan, Lewis & Clark College, Head Coach, Volleyball  
Callie Lekas, Wellesley College, Head Coach, Field Hockey  
Elizabeth Levy, Case Western Reserve University, Assistant Coach, Swimming & Diving  
Mikayla Lopez, Bethany College, Head Coach, Basketball  
Sam Mancinelli, Tufts University, Assistant Coach, Basketball  
Josie Matlick, Davis & Elkins College, Assistant Coach, Soccer  
Kate McCauley, Saint Vincent College, Head Coach, Volleyball  
Jill McCormick, Santa Rosa Junior College, Head Coach, Swimming & Diving  
Camille McPherson, Capital University, Head Coach, Basketball  
Genee McRath, Tennessee State University, Head Coach, Softball  
Donye' Monroe, Manchester University, Head Coach, Soccer  
Erin Moore, Bentley University, Assistant Coach, Field Hockey  
Kelsey Morrison, Geneva College, Head Coach, Soccer  
Ellen Newton, D'Youville University, Assistant Coach, Lacrosse  
Mary Nolte, Williams College, Assistant Coach, Track & Field/Cross-Country  
Rachel Oberholtzer, Fort Valley State University, Assistant Coach, Softball  
Arlicia Ortiz, Fayetteville State University, Assistant Coach, Volleyball  
Christiana Oyawale, Barry University, Assistant Coach, Volleyball  
Pamela Perkins, Tuskegee University, Head Coach, Volleyball  
Breena Proctor, Mount Holyoke College, Head Coach, Soccer  
Brittney Randolph, Head Coach, Field Hockey  
Ashley Reinecke, Transylvania University, Co-Head Coach, Soccer  
Krista Rice, Oakland University, Head Coach, Volleyball  
Lisa Ritchie, Mount Holyoke College, Assistant Coach, Track & Field  
Erin Rotchford, SUNY Morrisville, Head Coach, Basketball  
Alicia Schuck, Rollins College, Head Coach, Soccer  
Noelani Schultmeier, Amherst College, Assistant Coach, Field Hockey  
Melissa Schwab, Elmhurst University, Head Coach, Golf & Basketball  
Jessica Scott, University of Minnesota, Assistant Coach, Ice Hockey  
Mikie Sevick, West Virginia University, Assistant Coach, Rowing  
Roseanna Smith, Oberlin College, Running Backs Coach, Football  
Tra'Dayja Smith, Saint Louis University, Assistant Coach, Basketball  
Jennifer Spalding, Citrus College, Head Coach, Water Polo  
Morgan Stacey, St. Norbert College, Assistant Coach, Ice Hockey  
Jennifer Stadler, Chadron State College, Head Coach, Volleyball  
Katie Stansbury, Oberlin College, Assistant Coach, Volleyball  
Magda Stepnik, Bates College, Assistant Coach, Tennis

Cailyn Straubel, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Head Coach, Volleyball  
Sydney Supica, Brown University, Assistant Coach, Field Hockey  
Alyssa Taramona, Texas Woman's University, Assistant Coach, Soccer  
Kelcie Tolan, Cal State University San Bernardino, Assistant Coach, Volleyball  
Lauren Torvi Prochazka, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, Head Coach, Volleyball  
Katie Trace, The Ohio State University, Assistant Coach, Swimming & Diving  
Morgan Tucker, California State University Monterey Bay, Assistant Coach, Water Polo  
Kristen Van Iderstine, Brown University, Director of Football Administration, Football  
Tiana Webster, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Assistant Coach, Track & Field/Cross-Country  
Kim Wudi, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Head Coach, Volleyball  
Kaye Zoolakis, Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, Assistant Coach, Swimming & Diving

### **May 21-23 NCAA Academy 2.0 Class #6 Participants:**

Dawn Barnes, Upward Stars Columbia VBC, Head Coach, Volleyball  
Noelle Brouillard, Whitworth University, Head Coach, Lacrosse  
Christine Clancy, Washington and Lee University, Head Coach, Basketball  
Pietie Coetzee-Turner, Wake Forest University, Associate Head Coach, Field Hockey  
Angela Dendas-Pleasant, Lewis & Clark College, Head Strength Coach, Strength & Conditioning  
Lilia Dosalmas, University of California Santa Cruz, Head Coach, Soccer  
Ashley Johnson, Colorado College, Assistant Coach, Lacrosse  
Szandra Kiss, Arizona State University, Assistant Coach, Water Polo  
Olivia Leavitt, Lehigh University, Head Coach, Tennis  
Laura LeDuc, Trojan Aquatics, Head Coach, Aquatics & Water Polo  
Justine Lombardi, St. Francis Brooklyn, Head Coach, Soccer  
Amy Long, Saint Mary's College, Head Coach, Lacrosse  
Kat Mertz, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Head Coach, Soccer  
Camise Patterson, Florida A&M University, Head Coach, Softball  
Jen Scanlon, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges, Head Coach, Soccer  
Emily Schmit, California State University, Monterey Bay, Head Coach, Water Polo  
Abbey Sutherland, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Head Coach, Volleyball  
Donika Sutton, Tennessee State University, Head Coach, Volleyball  
Benay Weintraub, Caltech, Head Coach, Tennis  
Kari Williams, Rutgers University, Head Coach, Golf

For more information about our NCAA Women Coaches Academy, please click [here](#). If interested in funding an Academy Scholarship, click [here](#).

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### **About the NCAA**

The NCAA is a diverse association of more than 1,100 member colleges and universities that prioritize academics, well-being and fairness to create greater opportunities for more than half a million student-athletes each year. The NCAA provides a pathway to higher education and beyond for student-athletes pursuing academic goals and competing in NCAA sports. More than 54,000 student-athletes experience the pinnacle of intercollegiate athletics by competing in NCAA championships each year. Visit [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) and [www.ncaa.com](http://www.ncaa.com) for more details about the Association and the corporate partnerships that support the NCAA and its student-athletes.

### **About WeCOACH**

Founded in 2011, WeCOACH is a one-of-a-kind nonprofit dedicated to recruiting, advancing, and retaining women coaches in all sports and levels through year-round professional growth & leadership development

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programs. Prior to Title IX, over 90% of women's collegiate sports teams were coached by women. Today, 50 years later, data indicates that number has decreased to a stagnant 41% in all three NCAA Divisions, with only 7.3% women coaches of color. Five percent of women coach men's teams, and at the youth level, the data is hard to estimate, approximately less than 20% of teams are coached by women. As part of its year-long Title IX 50th Anniversary campaign, WeCOACH launched MOVE the NUMBERS to help change the landscape for women coaches and to impact history for the next 50 years. For more information, visit [wecoachsports.org/50th](http://wecoachsports.org/50th).