



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Media Contact:**

Whitney Showalter

WeCOACH

[info@wecoachsports.org](mailto:info@wecoachsports.org)

## **WeCOACH to Host 2024 NCAA Women Coaches Academy Programs**

June 10, 2024 – WeCOACH is proud to announce the 53<sup>rd</sup> class of the NCAA Women Coaches Academy (WCA) and the 7<sup>th</sup> class of NCAA Academy 2.0, taking place June 16-19, in Denver, Colorado. These transformational Academies, hosted in partnership with the NCAA, provide multi-day growth and leadership development for women coaches across all sports and collegiate levels, including two-year and four-year colleges.

A total of 120 women coaches will convene in Denver, with 96 participating in the NCAA WCA and 24 engaging in the advanced NCAA Academy 2.0 program. These women represent 25 different sports, including five of the six NCAA emerging sports and come from a diverse range of institutions including NCAA Divisions I, II, and III, NAIA, 3C2A, NJCAA, and NWAC.

“The NCAA is proud to once again partner with WeCOACH to host the 2024 NCAA Women Coaches Academy and NCAA Academy 2.0. The NCAA Leadership Development Office serves to educate and empower student-athletes, coaches and athletics administrators through transformative experiences that develop strong, effective leaders, cultivate an inclusive community and enhance the college sports landscape”, said DeeDee Merritt, NCAA Managing Director of Leadership Development. “These Academies for women coaches align with our mission and have had tremendous results in supporting, advancing and retaining women coaches in collegiate athletics. WeCOACH performs a valuable service in providing support and development for women coaches across the collegiate sports landscape. Collaborative efforts such as this allow us to expand our reach and broaden our impact.”

**WeTEACH. WeINSPIRE. WeMOTIVATE. WeLEAD.**

A special addition this year, WeCOACH will honor the five recipients of the 2023-24 Lifetime Achievement Award presented by Jostens. Academy participants will also have a chance to learn from the honorees during a keynote conversation session presented by Hudl.

“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,” said Vanessa Fuchs, CEO of WeCOACH. “Thanks to generous donor support, we awarded over \$50,000 in scholarship funds to 43 coaches, furthering our mission to support women coaches and ensuring affordable access for all WeCOACH programming.”

Over 2,200 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 thanks the NCAA for its longstanding support of these transformational programs along with this year’s Academy Partners: Marines, Hudl, VALD, Athlete Assessments, Gatorade Performance Partner, Holbrook, Jostens, Legends of The Ball, Inc., Natasha Watley Foundation, The Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport , This One Media and The Sports Bra Project.

### **June 17-19 NCAA Women Coaches Academy Class #53 Participants:**

Alex Albert, University of Saint Joseph, Head Coach, Women's Swimming & Diving  
Sarah Anderson, University of Cincinnati, Assistant Coach, Cross Country, Track & Field  
Monica Armstrong, University of California-Santa Cruz, Head Coach, Women's Basketball  
Keela Austin, Fordham University, Assistant Coach, Track & Field  
Sade Ayinde, University at Albany, Head Coach, Women's Soccer  
Jordan Barton, Bethany College, Head Coach, Women's Volleyball  
Meghan Barnard, IU-Indianapolis, Assistant Coach, Women's Tennis  
Keilee Bessho, Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, Assistant Coach, Women's Golf  
Maggie Billingsley, Stanislaus State University, Assistant Coach, Women's Volleyball  
Jennifer Buckman, University of Chicago, Assistant Coach, Women's Volleyball  
Kelly Buikus, University of the Cumberland, Head Coach, Women's Lacrosse  
Sandra Bullock, Southwestern Oregon Community College, Head Coach, M&W Swimming  
Olga Camacho, Skyline College, Head Coach, Women's Wrestling  
Donna Carr, Davis & Elkins College, Head Coach, Women's Basketball  
Ashley Chagnon, Clark College, Head Coach, Women's Lacrosse  
Valerie Clark, Converse University, Head Coach, Women's Lacrosse

**WeTEACH. WeINSPIRE. WeMOTIVATE. WeLEAD.**

Vicmari Cockrill, Tennessee State University, Assistant Coach, Women's Volleyball  
Rebecca Congel, Carthage College, Head Coach, Women's Lacrosse  
Angela DaPrato, Cosumnes River College, Assistant Coach, Women's Basketball  
Mercede Daugherty, Hope College, Assistant Coach, Softball  
Lauren Davenport, Notre Dame of Maryland University, Assistant Coach, Women's Lacrosse  
Colleen Dawson, Head Coach, Women's Lacrosse  
Caitlin Desaulniers, University of New England, Assistant Coach, Women's Rugby  
Nikki Dieball, Southern Nazarene University, Associate Head Coach, Women's Volleyball  
Kennedy Fabian, Wright State University, Assistant Coach, Women's Volleyball  
Megan Fox, Chestnut Hill College, Head Coach, Women's Basketball  
Brandie Garcia, Ohlone College, Head Coach, Women's Soccer  
Casey Garza, University of Massachusetts Boston, Strength Coach, Weightlifting  
Dawn Grant, Swarthmore College, Head Coach, Women's Basketball  
Alex Guyton, Purdue University, Assistant Coach, Women's Basketball  
Hannah Hagy, Trinity College, Head Coach, M&W Swimming & Diving  
Amanda Hansen, Occidental College, Assistant Coach, Softball  
Christine Hipa, Occidental College, Head Coach, Softball  
Kaitlyn Hooper-Bell, University of Redlands, Assistant Coach, Softball  
Thannia Huerta, Madera Community College, Assistant Coach, Women's Soccer  
Jeani Humpe, Bethany College, Head Coach, M&W Swimming & Diving  
Jillian Humphrey, Saint Mary's College, Head Coach, STUNT  
Alyssa Johnson, Case Western Reserve University, Head Coach, Women's Soccer  
Joan Johnson, Head Coach, Field Hockey  
Clarissa Johnson, Transylvania University, Head Coach, Cheer  
Keanna Keys, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Assistant Coach, Women's Basketball  
Mackenzie King, SUNY Oneonta, Head Coach, Women's Lacrosse  
Tierney Larson, Columbia University, Assistant Coach, Women's Lacrosse  
Ashley Lawrence, Virginia State University, Head Coach, Women's Lacrosse  
Amari Lawson, Clark Atlanta University, Volunteer Assistant Coach, Softball  
Kumari Lewis, University of Pennsylvania, Associate Head Coach, Women's Rowing  
Kae Lord, Amherst College, Assistant Coach, Field Hockey  
Margaret Maclean, University of New Haven, Head Coach, Field Hockey  
Lindsay Macy, College of St. Benedict, Head Coach, Women's Ice Hockey  
Justice Magraw, University of Washington, Assistant Coach, Women's Volleyball

Tatjana Matthews, South Carolina State University, Head Coach, Softball  
Alison McCarthy, Rose-Human Institute of Technology, Assistant Coach, Women's Basketball  
Deja Middleton, University of Richmond, Facilities Manager  
Lydia Mitchell, Oberlin College, Assistant Coach, Women's Soccer  
Dayna Moneta, Williams College, Assistant Coach, Football  
Anna Moore, University of Sioux Falls, Assistant Coach, Swimming & Diving  
Avery Murphy, Wilson College, Head Coach, Women's Lacrosse  
Karen Nell, University of Saint Joseph, Head Coach, Field Hockey  
Amber Neumann, Pace University, Assistant Coach, Women's Lacrosse  
Madison Nichols, Stevenson University, Assistant Coach, Women's Ice Hockey  
Molly Nuri, Bethany College, Head Coach, Women's Lacrosse  
Ana Pain, Barry University, Assistant Coach, Women's Tennis  
Jenny Pawlowski, Gannon University, Head Coach, Women's Lacrosse  
Barbara Perkins, University of Denver, Head Coach, Triathlon  
Jamie Peters, Purdue University-Fort Wayne, Assistant Coach, Women's Soccer  
Jody Pope, Grays Harbor Community College, Assistant Coach, Softball  
Breann Puchalski, University of Redlands, Assistant Coach, Women's Soccer  
Veronica Rocco, Amherst College, Assistant Coach, Cross Country, Track & Field  
Christine Roser-LeFevers, Rollins College, Head Coach, Softball  
Cat Rossi, Washington & Lee University, Strength Coach, Weightlifting  
Alicia Roth, Jacksonville University, Head Coach, Women's Volleyball  
Taylor Ruden, Ohio State University, Assistant Coach, Women's Rowing  
Mia Ruffalo, York College, Assistant Coach, Softball  
Liz Ruiz, Boise State University, Assistant Coach, Women's Soccer  
Amanda Ruller, Central Washington University, Graduate Assistant Coach, Football  
Katie Russo, Goucher College, Head Coach, Women's Lacrosse  
Sacha Santimano, Marshall University, Assistant Coach, Women's Basketball  
Olivia Scarbrough, Bethany College, Head Coach, Softball  
Sierra Slack, Occidental College, Head Coach, Women's Lacrosse  
Regina Smith, Morgan State University, Head Coach, Acrobatics and Tumbling  
Maggie Sohns, Stevens Institute of Technology, Assistant Coach, Field Hockey  
Jaylynn Stewart, The University of the South, Head Coach, Women's Basketball  
Abigail String, Marist College, Assistant Coach, M&W Swimming & Diving  
Corrinne Tarver, Fisk University, Head Coach, Gymnastics

Allison Taub, Lehigh University, Assistant Coach, Track & Field  
Shannon Taub, Duquesne University, Assistant Coach, Track & Field  
Cassandra Taylor, University of Valley Forge, Head Coach, Women's Basketball  
Mona Walters, Bryn Athyn College, Head Coach, Women's Lacrosse  
Megan Warren, Wilmington College, Head Coach, Softball  
Jess West, Oberlin College, Head Coach, Field Hockey  
Sarah Weyrauch, University of Minnesota, Assistant Coach, Women's Rowing  
Kourtnei Williams, Boston University, Assistant Coach, Women's Basketball  
Makena Wilson, Florida Southern College, Head Coach, Beach Volleyball  
Marlee Wilson, Western Michigan University, Head Coach, Softball  
Katherine Yarusso, Widener University, Assistant Coach, Women's Lacrosse

**June 16-18 NCAA Academy 2.0 Class #7 Participants:**

Amanda Beckwith, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Head Coach, Women's Volleyball  
Jennifer Buffin, Colorado College, Head Coach, M&W Swimming & Diving  
LaTanya Collins, Iona University, Associate Head Coach, Women's Basketball  
Jazmine Craig, Bryant University, Assistant Coach, Women's Volleyball  
Sarah Dessner, Georgian Court University, Assistant Coach, Women's Basketball  
Kacie Ehinger, Nova Southeastern University, Head Coach, Women's Volleyball  
Sara Emerich, Manchester University, Head Coach, Softball  
Kaylee Harnen, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Assistant Coach, Women's Ice Hockey  
Perrmella Harris, Morgan State University, Associate Head Coach, Acrobatics & Tumbling  
Amy Hogue, University of Utah, Head Coach, Softball  
Erin Hughes, Washington & Lee University, Assistant Coach, Women's Basketball  
Kate McCauley, Saint Vincent College, Head Coach, Men's Volleyball  
Donye' Monroe, Manchester University, Head Coach, Women's Soccer  
Kelsey Morrison, SUNY Potsdam, Head Coach, Women's Soccer  
Jessica Mulhern, Adelphi University, Head Coach, Field Hockey  
Jennifer Myhre, Anderson University, Head Coach, Women's Soccer  
Ellen Newton, D'Youville University, Assistant Coach, Women's Lacrosse  
Ashley Potvin-Fulford, University of New England, Head Coach, Women's Rugby  
Lauren Prochazka, South Dakota Mines, Head Coach, Women's Volleyball  
Carrie Racsummerger, Daemen University, Head Coach, Bowling  
Melissa Schwab, Elmhurst University, Assistant Coach, Women's Basketball

Jennifer Stadler, Chadron State College, Head Coach, Women's Basketball

Olivia Staff, Monmouth University, Associate Head Coach, Women's Rowing

Tiana Webster, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Assistant Coach, Cross Country, Track & Field

To learn more about our Academy programs or if you are interested [in funding an Academy Scholarship](#), click below:

[NCAA Women Coaches Academy](#)

[NCAA Academy 2.0](#)

[Academy Scholarships](#)

###

### **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 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to recruiting, advancing, and retaining women coaches in all sports and levels through year-round professional growth & leadership development programs. Prior to Title IX, over 90% of women's collegiate sports teams were coached by women. Today, over 50 years later, the data indicates that number has decreased to 46% in Division I, 41% across all three NCAA Divisions, with only 6.2% women head coaches of color (Division I). Only 5% women coach men's teams. At the youth level, the data is hard to estimate, approximately less than 20% of teams are coached by women. WeCOACH launched MOVE the NUMBERS in 2022 to help change the landscape for women coaches and the student-athletes they lead. If she can see her, she can be her. For more information visit [MOVE the NUMBERS](#).