



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WeCOACH To Host NCAA Women Coaches Academy Programs

May 19, 2022 – WeCOACH will host the 51st class of the NCAA Women Coaches Academy (WCA) and the 5th class of the NCAA Academy 2.0, May 23-26, 2022 in Denver, Colorado. These Academies are made possible through a longstanding partnership with the NCAA.

Forty-five women coaches of all experience levels and sports from NCAA Divisions I, II and III have been selected to participate in the NCAA Women Coaches Academy, while 17 have been selected to partake in the master-learning NCAA Academy 2.0 program.

“The NCAA is proud to once again partner with WeCOACH to host the 2022 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 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.”

The NCAA WCA is designed for women coaches who are ready to elevate their holistic coaching effectiveness by learning advanced leadership skills and strategies that directly affect their personal and team success. Participants will 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 skills, strategies, and knowledge gained from their WCA experience.

“We are thrilled to return to in-person Academies this year and welcome our NCAA Women Coaches Academy Class #51 and NCAA Academy 2.0 Class #5 to Denver! The programs are our signature growth and leadership development events and the data demonstrates the significant impact”, said Vanessa Fuchs, WeCOACH CEO. “Women coaches who graduate from our Academies remain in the coaching profession at a higher rate. And as we approach Title IX’s 50th anniversary, there’s no better time than now to move the numbers in terms of increasing women in coaching and these Academies are one of the many ways WeCOACH is able to achieve that.”

May 24-26 NCAA Women Coaches Academy Class #51 participants

Taylor Anderson, Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges, Assistant Coach, Basketball

Dawn Barnes, South Carolina State University, Head Coach, Volleyball

Kristen Bourne, The College of Saint Scholastica, Assistant Coach, Skiing

Noelle Brouillard, Whitworth University, Head Coach, Lacrosse

Sarah Brown, Penn State University, Head Coach, Gymnastics
Jackie Bruno, Cal Poly Pomona, Assistant Coach, Soccer
Kelsey Christensen, Providence College, Assistant Coach, Softball
Pietie Coetzee-Turner, University of Massachusetts, Assistant Coach, Field Hockey
Jill Conroy, Stevens Institute of Technology, Associate Head Coach, Basketball
Chrissi Ekhomu, North Central College, Assistant Coach, Basketball
Lucienne Ford, Brandeis University, Assistant Coach, Cross Country/Track & Field
Whitney Frary, St. Olaf College, Head Coach, Soccer
Emma Gerhold, Loyola University (MD), Assistant Coach, Cross Country/Track & Field
Jacquelyn Gnassi, Stevens Institute of Technology, Assistant Coach, Soccer
Nicole Graham, Clark Atlanta University, Assistant Coach, Basketball
Jackie Guillemette, Bentley University, Assistant Coach, Field Hockey
Maya Hayes, University of Minnesota, Assistant Coach, Soccer
Zoe Herrera, Cal Poly Pomona, Assistant Coach, Volleyball
Erin Hughes, Washington and Lee University, Assistant Coach, Basketball
Dr. Ashely Johnson, Clark Atlanta University, Head Coach, Volleyball
Ka'lia Johnson, University of Richmond, Assistant Coach, Basketball
Mary Johnston, Macalester College, Head Coach, Volleyball
Lela Knight, Randolph College, Graduate Assistant Coach, Cross Country/Track & Field and Lacrosse
Olivia Leavitt, Colgate University, Assistant Coach, Tennis
Beth Lebel, University of New Mexico, Assistant Coach, Soccer
Mallikah Little, Ole Miss, Assistant Athletic Director for Player Personnel, Football
Maria Lopez, Boise State University, Associate Head Coach, Tennis
Lindsay Mapes, Oberlin College, Assistant Coach, Softball
Molly Marrin, Regis University, Head Coach, Basketball
Courtney Materazzi, Cal State Monterey Bay, Head Coach, Volleyball
Abby McClure, Hartwick College, Director of Operations, Lacrosse
Kaitlin Nielsen, University of Kansas, Assistant Coach, Volleyball
Camise Patterson, Florida A&M University, Assistant Coach, Softball
Stephanie Perez, San Francisco State, Assistant Coach, Basketball
Cassi Pickett, Lynn University, Head Coach, Softball
Emily Powers, Belmont Abbey College, Head Coach, Acrobatics & Tumbling
Margot Royer-Johnson, Providence College, Head Coach, Volleyball
Emily Scheese, CSU Maritime Academy, Head Coach, Soccer
Leslie Smith, Providence College, Assistant Coach, Field Hockey
Donika Sutton, Tennessee State University, Head Coach, Volleyball
Tara Turner, Clark Atlanta University, Head Coach, Tennis
TaCho Tyler, Prairie View A&M University, Head Coach, Volleyball
Jess Weiss, Randolph-Macon College, Head Coach, Field Hockey
Kayla Wilhelm, Randolph College, Assistant Coach, Cross Country/Track & Field
Kaye Zoolakis, Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Colleges, Assistant Coach, Swimming & Diving

May 23-25 NCAA Academy 2.0 Class #5 participants

Sofie Aagaard, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Head Coach, Golf

Tracie Adix-Zins, DePaul University, Head Coach, Softball

Beverly Biancur, North Carolina Wesleyan College, Head Coach, Soccer

Jeannette Boudway, Smith College, Head Coach, Soccer

Amanda Caldwell, Georgia Southern University, Head Coach, Swimming & Diving

Carly Dockendorf, University of Utah, Assistant Coach, Gymnastics

Kristy Duncan, Loras College, Head Coach, Volleyball

Kelly Gallagher, University of Tampa, Head Coach, Lacrosse

Kimberly Lambert, Cal State East Bay, Head Coach, Volleyball

Mesha Levister, North Carolina Central University, Assistant Coach, Golf

Valerie Lohr, Saint Mary's Hall Upper School, Head Coach, Field Hockey

Kimberly McGowan, Austin Peay State University, Head Coach, Soccer

Katherine Menendez, Colorado College, Head Coach Basketball

Lacey Phillips, Allegheny College, Head Coach, Soccer

Samantha Schall, Grand Valley State University, Head Coach, Tennis

Rosanna Sguerra, Kenyon College, Head Coach, Volleyball

Maria Stuber, The College of Saint Scholastica, Head Coach, Skiing

About WeCOACH

Founded in 2011, WeCOACH has become the premier membership organization committed to recruiting, advancing, and retaining women coaches across all sports and levels. Previously known as the Alliance of Women Coaches, the organization reinvigorated its brand in August 2018. By providing a supportive and unified network, leadership and development programs and resources, and access to in-person and digital resources, WeCOACH is changing the landscape for women coaches.

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