



PRESS RELEASE

WBCA Research Shows Diversification of Women's Basketball Coaches

Atlanta, Ga. (March 2, 2009) -- The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) released the results from its NCAA Division I ethnicity, gender and membership study. The results include all NCAA Division I head and associate head coaches in women's basketball. The purpose of the study is to show the growth of diversity in the Division I women's basketball coaching ranks.

"The Division I ethnicity, gender and membership study is a very beneficial tool for our coaches to use, and will be an outstanding resource to continue to promote diversity in our women's basketball coaching community," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "It will also assist the WBCA in identifying the needs of our diverse coaches."

All 345 Division I head coaches* are included in the findings, while a total of 88 associate head coaches are also included.

A general summary of findings for the NCAA Division I ethnicity, gender and membership study are:

1. 2/3 of NCAA Division I women's basketball head coaches are female.
2. Approximately 2/3 of NCAA Division I women's basketball associate head coaches are female.
3. Nearly one in every five NCAA Division I women's basketball head coach is African-American.
4. There is a higher percentage of African-American associate head coaches than there are African-American head coaches. (Shows a growing trend of qualified minorities coming up through the ranks).
5. There are two Hispanic head coaches in NCAA Division I women's basketball.
6. Approximately 1/3 of African-American head coaches are male.

To view a more detailed summary of findings for head coaches, click [here](#). To view a more detailed summary of findings for associate head coaches, click [here](#).

*This number reflects institutions going through the process of moving from DII to DI. The NCAA states that there are 330 institutions that sponsor Division I women's basketball.

In 2003, the WBCA started the “So You Want To Be A Coach” program. The purpose of the So You Want To Be A Coach workshop is to provide an educational and professional foundation for female basketball players, with emphasis on minority candidates, in order to better prepare them for entering the coaching profession. So You Want To Be A Coach workshop is two and a half days of superior programming. The goal is to increase the number of minority female basketball players who aspire to coach. The program has touched 278 minority female basketball players; of those 278, 158 of them are now working in women’s basketball.

The 2009 workshop will be held April 3–5, 2009 during the WBCA National Convention in St. Louis, Mo. This program is made possible through the NCAA Matching Grants for the Advancement of Minority Women Coaches. For more information on the program, click [here](#).