



PRESS RELEASE

## Center for Coaching Excellence Concludes 2011 Sessions

NEW YORK – The second and final 2011 session of the WBCA Center for Coaching Excellence (CCE) conducted in partnership with Columbia University concluded June 10 on Columbia's campus as 28 college women's basketball coaches completed the invitation-only, two-and-a-half-day elite leadership training program.

The CCE's inaugural session was held May 23–25.

"We are thrilled at the success of the first two sessions of the CCE," said Women's Basketball Coaches Association CEO Beth Bass. "Just like the outstanding coaches who participated, we tweaked our game plan from the first session to ensure the momentum continued for our second session in June, which was a complete success."

"The second session of the Center for Coaching Excellence was incredibly successful," said Dr. M. Dianne Murphy, director, intercollegiate athletics and physical education at Columbia University. "We achieved our goal of introducing coaches of college women's basketball to various aspects of leadership, while reinforcing the principles of ethics and integrity."

Capitalizing on the resources of Columbia University, one of the world's leading research universities, and the WBCA, the CCE provided an unparalleled, exclusive learning experience for the WBCA Board of Directors and NCAA Division I conference captains. Utilizing collaborative and interactive learning sessions along with lectures and panel discussions featuring experts in college athletics, the CCE provides college women's basketball coaches with valuable networking opportunities with their peers and top industry leaders.

"I'm proud of the opportunity I had in attending the first year of the Center for Coaching Excellence and in being one of the first 60 coaches to go through the program," said Penn State head coach Coquese Washington. "As a former student-athlete and now as a head coach, I know how important it is to support our game and safeguard the integrity of college women's basketball. The Center for Coaching Excellence provides women's basketball coaches with an outstanding professional development resource. I know I will put what I learned to good use."

Cathie T. Siders, a clinical psychologist, organizational consultant and executive coach, facilitated group-learning sessions. Other sessions featured panel discussions from a wide variety of leaders from both the college athletics industry and other sectors of industry.

"As I noted after the last session, the men and women who coach college women's

basketball are outstanding individuals," said Siders. "They are inquisitive learners and passionate about being the best leaders for the young women who play for them. The coaches that participated in our program gained valuable tools to succeed in the everyday leadership of their women's basketball programs, and this class was no exception."

Faculty for the CCE's June session included Julie Roe Lach, vice president of enforcement, NCAA; Dick Baddour, athletics director, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Bernadette McGlade, commissioner, Atlantic 10 Conference; Robin Green Harris, executive director, Ivy League; Carolyn Schlie Femovich, executive director, Patriot League; Beth DeBauche, commissioner, Ohio Valley Conference; Ceal Barry, associate athletics director, University of Colorado; Jim Delany, commissioner, Big Ten Conference; Jody Conradt, head women's basketball coach emerita, University of Texas; Marsha Sharp, head women's basketball coach emerita, Texas Tech; Doug Bruno, head women's basketball coach, DePaul University; Brian Giorgis, head women's basketball coach, Marist College; Dr. Jon Steinbrecher, commissioner, Mid-American Conference and William V. Campbell, chair, Columbia University Trustees and chair of the board of directors of Intuit Inc.

#### About Columbia University Athletics:

With more than 700 student-athletes competing on 31 varsity sports teams, Columbia University sponsors the largest NCAA Division I athletics program in New York City. Most Columbia teams compete on the island of Manhattan, either on Columbia's Morningside Heights campus or at the Baker Athletics Complex in Inwood. Columbia University is a founding member of The Ivy League, one of the most historic collegiate athletic conferences in the nation. Columbia teams have won 19 national championships, and 52 Columbians have won individual national titles. For more information about Columbia Athletics, please contact the Office of Sports Information/Media Relations at (212) 854-2534 or visit [gocolumbialions.com](http://gocolumbialions.com). For ticket information, please call (212) 854-2546.

#### About the WBCA:

Founded in 1981, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association promotes women's basketball by unifying coaches at all levels to develop a reputable identity for the sport and to foster and promote the development of the game in all of its aspects as a sport for women and girls. For more information about the WBCA, visit [wbca.org](http://wbca.org).