



PRESS RELEASE

29 coaches attend third session of The Center for Coaching Excellence

ATLANTA (May 31, 2012) – A 29-member class composed of NCAA Division I head women's basketball coaches recently completed the third session of The Center for Coaching Excellence (CCE), which was held May 21–23 on the campus of Columbia University in New York.

The CCE, a joint project of Columbia and the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA), is an invitation-only, elite leadership program. The inaugural two sessions were held in May and June 2011. To date, 85 college women's basketball coaches have completed the two-and-a-half day curriculum.

"We are thrilled at the success of our third session of The Center for Coaching Excellence," said WBCA CEO Beth Bass. "Close to 90 participants have experienced this landmark program. I'm excited for the fourth session in June 2012. I can't wait to welcome 30 more coaches in just a couple of weeks."

"We are thrilled to host the second year of The Center for Coaching Excellence," said M. Dianne Murphy, director of intercollegiate athletics and physical education at Columbia. "Our goal is to introduce the coaches of college women's basketball to various aspects of leadership, and provide a deeper understanding and appreciation of the importance of ethics and integrity. I am thrilled with the overwhelming success of our outstanding program."

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

Coaches attending the May 21–23 session were Courtney Banghart, Princeton; Lynn Bria, Stetson; Jackie Carson, Furman; Ito Coleman, Clemson; Kristy Curry, Texas Tech; Matthew Daniel, Central Arkansas; Jill Dunn, Jacksonville; Maria Fantanarosa, Miami (Ohio); Jason Flowers, Cal State Northridge; AnnMarie Gilbert, unaffiliated; Brian Giorgis, Marist; Julie Goodenough, Abilene Christian; Lindsay Gottlieb, California; Kelly Greenberg, Boston U.; Quentin Hillman, Syracuse; Krista Kilburn–Steveskey, Hofstra; Regina Miller, Illinois–Chicago; Matthew Mitchell, Kentucky; Teri Moren, Indiana State; Mike Morris, Samford; Jennifer Mountain, Santa Clara; Dianne Nolan, Lafayette; Jenny Palmateer, Monmouth; Brady Sallee, Eastern Illinois; Marlene Stollings, Winthrop; Gail

Striegler, Long Island; Ed Swanson, Sacred Heart; Darcie Vincent, Appalachian State; and Altherias Warmley, Alabama A&M.

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.

"The men and women who coach college women's basketball are inquisitive learners who are passionate about being the best leaders for the young women who play for them," said Siders. "The coaches who participated in our program gained valuable tools to succeed in the everyday leadership of their women's basketball programs."

Kentucky's Mitchell echoed Siders' sentiment. "I have never participated in a more beneficial professional development program in my coaching career," said Mitchell. "Columbia University put on a first class program -- not just in the outstanding curriculum, but in the first-class way each coach was treated. I am truly grateful to have attended The Center for Coaching Excellence."

The faculty for the May 21-23 session included Julie Roe Lach, vice president of enforcement, NCAA; Dick Baddour, former athletics director, North Carolina; Bernard Muir, athletics director, Delaware; Carolyn Schlie Femovich, executive director, Patriot League; Beth DeBauche, commissioner, Ohio Valley Conference; Val Ackerman, professor for sports management, Columbia; Jeffrey H. Orleans, consultant, Alden and Associates; Jody Conradt, head women's basketball coach emerita, Texas; Chris Plonsky, women's athletics director, Texas; Charli Turner Thorne, head women's basketball coach, Arizona State; Amy Huchthausen, commissioner, America East Conference; Pete Mangurian, head football coach, Columbia; and Susan K. Feagin, special advisor to the president, Columbia.

"It was great to return to The Center for Coaching Excellence this year as part of the faculty," said Arizona State's Thorne, who is president of the WBCA. "This concept of building a WBCA leadership and ethics program was one of the paramount reasons that I got involved with the WBCA's presidential track."

The CCE's fourth session will be held June 11-13 at Columbia.

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 as a sport for women and girls. The WBCA is pleased to join the women's sports community in commemorating the 40th anniversary of Title IX, which was passed by Congress on June 23, 1972, and provides females with equal opportunities in athletics in the U.S. For more information on the WBCA, please visit wbca.org.