

PRESS RELEASE

WBCA announces finalists for the 2015 United States Marine Corps/WBCA Division I National Coach of the Year Award

ATLANTA (March 25, 2015) - The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced today the eight 2015 United States Marine Corps/WBCA NCAA Division I Regional Coaches of the Year, all of whom are finalists for the Pat Summitt Trophy to be presented to 2015 United States Marine Corps/WBCA NCAA Division I National Coach of the Year.

They are:

- Region 1 Geno Auriemma, University of Connecticut
- Region 2 Sue Semrau, Florida State University
- Region 3 Dawn Staley, University of South Carolina
- Region 4 Michelle Clark-Heard, Western Kentucky University
- Region 5 Kim Mulkey, Baylor University
- Region 6 Brenda Frese, University of Maryland
- Region 7 Mark Trakh, New Mexico State University
- Region 8 Scott Rueck, Oregon State University

The 2015 United States Marine Corps/WBCA Division I National Coach of the Year will be named during the Fifth Annual WBCA Awards Show on Monday, April 6, in the Grand Ballroom at the Tampa Marriott Waterside. This event is part of the WBCA National Convention and is held in conjunction with the NCAA® Women's Final Four®.

"The WBCA congratulates these eight outstanding coaches on being named finalists for the Pat Summitt Trophy, presented to the 2015 United States Marine Corps/WBCA Division I National Coach of the Year," said WBCA Executive Director Danielle Donehew. "Each coach was selected as a finalist by their peers after leading their respective teams to exceptional seasons. The WBCA appreciates and applauds each coach's commitment to their student-athletes, institutions, and communities."

"The Marine Corps congratulates the finalists for the 2015 United States Marine Corps/WBCA Division I National Coach of Year," said Lieutenant Colonel Brian C. Proctor, Assistant Chief of Staff Diversity, Marine Corps Recruiting Command. "The hard work and dedication needed to achieve this recognition from their peers exemplifies the Marine Corps leadership values of honor, courage and commitment."

The United States Marine Corps and the WBCA present the Pat Summitt Trophy, named for the legendary University of Tennessee coach, to the United States Marine Corps/WBCA National Coach of the Year annually in each of the six WBCA

membership divisions (NCAA Divisions I, II and III; NAIA; junior/community college and high school). This is the 33rd year since 1983 that the WBCA has presented this honor to a Division I head coach. For a list of past recipients, visit <u>WBCA.org</u>.

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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. For more information on the WBCA, please visit <u>wbca.org</u>. -WBCA-