



PRESS RELEASE

## The Center for Coaching Excellence marks five year anniversary

NEW YORK (June 16, 2015) – Columbia University in New York hosted *The Center for Coaching Excellence* for the fifth year with 36 WBCA member coaches completing the two-and-a-half-day elite leadership-training program from June 8-10.

More than 250 college head or associate head women's basketball coaches have participated in *The Center for Coaching Excellence*, an invitation-only program.

*The Center for Coaching Excellence* provides an unparalleled, exclusive learning experience by utilizing the resources of Columbia University, one of the world's leading research universities. Coaches attending *The Center for Coaching Excellence* learn through collaborative and interactive learning sessions facilitated by Dr. Cathie T. Siders, along with lectures and panel discussions featuring experts in college athletics. *The Center for Coaching Excellence* also provides coaches valuable networking opportunities with their peers and top industry leaders.

"The 2015 session of *The Center for Coaching Excellence* was a tremendous success," said M. Dianne Murphy, Columbia University's Advisor on Athletics Issues. "Over the past five years, we have been able to continually improve the program to address the issues most prevalent to the collegiate women's game. This year's session was no exception."

"The WBCA takes great pride in *The Center for Coaching Excellence*," said WBCA Executive Director Danielle Donehew. "This executive leadership program has enhanced the careers of more than 250 collegiate women's basketball coaches at all levels.

"The importance of knowing yourself coupled with best practices in the coaching profession and leadership strategies yields a unique and valuable opportunity for the coach of today to refine their skills and rise to the next level," said Donehew. "On behalf of our membership, we thank Dr. M. Dianne Murphy and Dr. Cathie T. Siders for their expertise, counsel and passion -- and their investment in the coaching profession."

Coaches attending the June 8-10 session included Kyle Adams of Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, Tennille Adams of Howard University, Jana Ashley of Clarion University, Fala Bullock of Armstrong State University, Jennifer Carleton of the University of Bridgeport, Anne Crutchfield of Emory & Henry College, Susan Darling of Northern Arizona University, Brian Donoghue of King's College (Pennsylvania), Brianna Finch of New Mexico Highlands University, Juli Fulks of Transylvania University, Molly Goodenbour of California State University-Dominguez Hills, Lauren Hall-Gregory of

New York University, Jenerrie Harris of the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Kiley Hill of Valdosta State University, Ron Hughey of the University of Houston, Heather Jacobs of Adelphi University, Todd Kent of the University of California – Santa Cruz, Tim LaKose of the Dominican University of California, Tina Martin of the University of Delaware, Caroline McCombs of Stony Brook University, Cassandra Moorer of Stillman College, Alisha Mosley of Washington College, Allison Nichols of Randolph College, James Oliver Jr. of Bluefield State College, Katie Pate of Lenoir–Rhyne University, JJ Riehl of St. Edward’s University, Kristen Rogers of Lake Superior State University, Carter Shaw of California State University–Los Angeles, David Slifer of the University of Central Missouri, Charlotte Smith of Elon University, Jennifer Smith of Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, Polly Thomason of the University of Texas at Dallas, Tom Webb of Cameron University, Jaida Williams of Coastal Carolina University, Stephanie Yelton of the University of West Florida and Mark Zacher of Norwich University.

“*The Center for Coaching Excellence* was a first-class experience. Dr. Murphy and Dr. Siders truly understand the leadership skills and expectations placed upon today’s college coach.” said Cameron University head coach Tom Webb. “The benefits from *The Center for Coaching Excellence* not only impact me, but will be an asset to my staff and most importantly the young ladies on the team. The tools taught over the three days of training challenge you to look inside yourself and your program to help create a special environment.”

“*The Center for Coaching Excellence* was a valuable experience, and I am truly grateful that I had the opportunity to participate,” said New Mexico Highlands University head coach Brianna Finch. “Dr. Murphy and Dr. Siders have created and developed a remarkable program; and with the support of the WBCA, it is obvious that they are sincere in their passion to help coaches continue to learn and grow. *The Center for Coaching Excellence* program allowed me to take the time to learn more about my personality and how to most effectively incorporate that into my coaching and professional development. The information, guidance, and support that I received will be invaluable as I move forward in my career. Additionally, the opportunity to network and share ideas with other coaches and administrators in women’s basketball was gratifying and I look forward to continuing those relationships.”

Faculty that contributed to this year’s session included Anucha Browne, vice president for women’s basketball, NCAA; Val Ackerman, faculty, Columbia University School of Continuing Education; Rich Ensor, commissioner, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Jon LeCrone, commissioner, Horizon League; Bernadette McGlade, commissioner, Atlantic 10 Conference; Jody Conradt, head coach emerita, University of Texas; Harry Perretta, head coach, Villanova University; Stephanie Gance, head coach, Columbia University; Terri Williams–Flournoy, head coach, Auburn University; Muffet McGraw, head coach, University of Notre Dame; Marsha Sharp, associate athletics director for special projects and head coach emerita, Texas Tech University; Joe Tartamella, head coach, St. John’s University and Coquese Washington, head coach, Penn State University.

“Future planning is underway for the expansion of *The Center for Coaching Excellence* to include all levels of our membership and assistant coaches. We celebrate the success over the last five years and are gearing up for increased investment in our educational resources for the development of coaches,” said Donehew.

A pilot program for streamlining and taking *The Center for Coaching Excellence*

regional is scheduled to be held Aug. 11–14 in Atlanta. The session for head coaches will be held Aug. 11–12 and, for the first time, a session for assistant coaches will be held Aug. 13–14.