



PRESS RELEASE

WBCA announces selections to 2015–16 board of directors

ATLANTA (June 18, 2015) – The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced today those individuals who have been elected or appointed to positions on the organization's board of directors for the 2015–16 academic year.

Penn State head coach Coquese Washington succeeds Florida State head coach Sue Semrau as president of the association. Washington, the association's first African-American president, has served the last two years as vice president/president-elect. Semrau remains on the board of directors as immediate past president, replacing Arizona State head coach Charli Turner Thorne whose term of service on the board ends.

University of Hartford head coach Jennifer Rizotti has been elected by the membership as the new vice president/president-elect for the 2015–16 and 2016–17 academic years. Rizotti, who has served as the NCAA Division I Legislative Chair for the past four years, will automatically succeed Washington as president in the 2017–18 academic year.

"The WBCA has a storied tradition of strong leadership provided by coaches for coaches to propel the association forward and enhance the game of women's basketball for today and future generations," said WBCA Executive Director Danielle Donehew. "We are pleased to welcome Coquese as our new WBCA president and leader. Coquese has demonstrated unparalleled excellence in both collegiate and professional women's basketball leadership positions. She will be an invaluable asset to the association.

"The association thanks Sue for her vision and tireless dedication," said Donehew. "Sue led the association through a time of transition and focused the Board of Directors in the areas of Playing Rules and Officiating, Legislation and Governance, Professional Development, Branding, and Youth Basketball. Sue will continue her service as she moves into the role of past president."

Donehew continued: "The association also thanks Charli as she approaches completion of her six-year commitment to the association. Charli's insight as past president has been vital for the association's presidential track progression -- supporting the current president and preparing the future president.

"We look forward to our next step as Coquese, Jennifer and Sue work to shape the future of the WBCA and solidify our leadership responsibility for the betterment of the game at every level."

Other WBCA members elected to the board of directors are:

- Princeton head coach Courtney Banghart, who was elected to the NCAA Division I East position.
- University of Texas head coach Karen Aston, who was elected to the NCAA Division I Midwest position.
- Gonzaga head coach Lisa Fortier, who was elected to the NCAA Division I West position.
- Bellarmine head coach Chancellor Dugan, who was elected to the NCAA Division II Group I position.
- Wayne State (Neb.) head coach Chris Kielsmeier, who was elected to the NCAA Division II Group II position.
- Williams College head coach Patricia Manning, who was re-elected to the NCAA Division III At-Large position.
- Westmont College head coach Kirsten Moore, who was re-elected to the NAIA position.
- Georgia Highlands College head coach Brandan Harrell, who was re-elected to the junior/community college position; and
- Rutgers Prep School head coach Mary Klinger, who was elected to the scholastic position which she previously held by appointment.

Washington also made appointments to fill the following positions:

- Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw was appointed to serve as the NCAA Division I Legislative Chair.
- Emory head coach Christy Thomaskutty was re-appointed to serve as the NCAA Division III Legislative Chair.

A comprehensive revision to the WBCA Bylaws, which was recently approved by vote of the membership, restructured the board and executive committee. The board will now be composed of 24 voting members. The executive committee will be composed of six voting members.

The treasurer, formerly an elected position, will be an individual with financial expertise who is appointed by the board of directors. The WBCA executive director will serve as the association's secretary, also formerly an elected position, and will be a nonvoting member of the board of directors and executive committee.

Permanent voting positions have been created for the three NCAA divisional legislative chairs, a conference commissioner, a conference or school-based administrator (formerly the chair of the WBCA Committee on Basketball Issues), the chair or co-chair of the newly created Leadership Advisory Council, and two members from the public sector appointed by the board of directors who have been successful in business, can bring a unique skill, talent or relationship to the association, and who have not been directly associated with the sport of women's basketball for at least the last five years.

The revision eliminates two special interest positions dedicated to Advocates for Athletic Equity (formerly known as Black Coaches and Administrators) and male coaches of the sport, but provides that the board may appoint a 25th voting member if it believes it is necessary to ensure diversity of race or gender among its members. Also eliminated are the four NCAA Division I at-large positions. All board members

currently holding positions that were eliminated by the revision will continue to serve on the board until their terms of service expire.

Here is the complete 2015–16 WBCA Board of Directors roster (*–denotes position to be eliminated when term of current holder expires):

Executive Committee

Coquese Washington, head coach, Penn State University, president
Jennifer Rizzotti, head coach, University of Hartford, vice president/president–elect
Sue Semrau, head coach, Florida State University, past president
Treasurer (to be appointed by the board)
Connie Hurlbut, deputy commissioner, Western Athletic Conference, administrator
NCAA Division II or III board member (to be appointed by the board)
Danielle Donehew, executive director, WBCA, secretary (non–voting)

Board of Directors

Karen Aston, head coach, University of Texas, NCAA Division I Midwest
Courtney Banghart, head coach, Princeton University, NCAA Division I East
Nikki Caldwell, head coach, Louisiana State University, NCAA Division I At–Large*
Claudette Charney, head coach (retired), Hillsdale College, NCAA Division II Legislative
Tricia Cullop, head coach, University of Toledo, NCAA Division I At–Large*
Chancellor Dugan, head coach, Bellarmine University, NCAA Division II Group I
Rich Ensor, commissioner, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Collegiate
Commissioners Association
Brandan Harrell, head coach, Georgia Highlands College, junior/community colleges
Chris Kielsmeier, head coach, Wayne State College (Nebraska), NCAA Division II Group II
Mary Klinger, head coach, Rutgers Preparatory School, scholastic
Lisa Fortier, head coach, Gonzaga University, NCAA Division I West
Amanda Levens, associate head coach, Arizona State University, assistant coaches
Patricia Manning, head coach, Williams College, NCAA Division III At–Large
Muffet McGraw, head coach, University of Notre Dame, NCAA Division I Legislative
Kirsten Moore, head coach, Westmont College, NAIA
Danielle O'Banion, head coach, Kent State University, Advocates for Athletic Equity*
Mary Beth Spirk, head coach, Moravian College, NCAA Division III At–Large
Christy Thomaskutty, head coach, Emory University, NCAA Division III Legislative
Leadership Advisory Council chair (to be appointed by the board)
Two public sector members (to be appointed by the board)
Anucha Browne, vice president for women's basketball, NCAA (non–voting)
Carol Callan, national team director, USA Basketball (non–voting)
Diane Dickman, managing director, NCAA Academic & Membership Affairs (non–voting)
Martha Putallaz, professor, Duke University, faculty athletic representatives (non–voting)

The WBCA Board of Directors develops policies, procedures and regulations for the operation of the organization. It also monitors the organization's financial health, programs and overall performance and provides the executive director with the resources necessary to meet the needs of those the organization serves.

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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 WBCA.org.