



# From the NFL to College Campuses, Black Women Coaches Lead at Every Level - By Mina Lo

In honor of Women's History Month, the Black Coaches Association recognizes a lineage of Black women who have shaped coaching through discipline, expertise, and sustained performance. Their work establishes a foundation that continues to influence how the game is taught, played, and led.

That lineage is visible today across the National Football League, including the Philadelphia Eagles, and throughout collegiate athletics—from South Carolina and Notre Dame women's basketball to UCLA and the University of Georgia track and field, Brown University women's soccer, and Kent State volleyball. This recognition is not an introduction. It is a record of impact.

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## Football

**Jennifer King**

**North Carolina Central University | Coaching career began in 2018 | Joined NCCU in 2025**

**First Black woman to serve as a full-time NFL assistant coach; previously coached women's college basketball at Greensboro College and Johnson & Wales Charlotte, and served as an offensive assistant at Dartmouth. Served as offensive assistant with the Chicago Bears (2024), working with running backs. Currently an offensive analyst at NCCU, focusing on wide receivers and bringing NFL-level drills and insights to the program. Won a Women's Football Alliance championship with the New York Sharks.**

**Autumn Lockwood**

**Philadelphia Eagles | Coaching career began in 2019 | Joined Eagles in August 2022**

**First Black woman to coach in a Super Bowl (LVII) and first to win a Super Bowl (LIX, Feb 2025); specializes in strength, conditioning, and performance coaching.**



**Rae Black**

**Arizona Christian University | Coaching career began in 2021 | Joined ACU on February 18, 2026**

**Assistant coach focused on Recruiting Communications and Social Media; helped create Girls Flag Football in the state of Arizona. Previously co-founded and coached the girls' flag football program at Casteel High School, leading it into competitive play in 2022.**

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## **Track & Field**

**Caryl Smith-Gilbert**

**University of Georgia | Coaching career began in 1994 | Joined Georgia in June 2021**

**Director of men's and women's track and field and cross country; led USC women to two NCAA outdoor titles (2018, 2021) and Georgia women to the 2025 NCAA outdoor title and 2026 NCAA Indoor National Championship. First woman to lead Georgia's men's program; named 2026 USTFCCA National Women's Coach of the Year.**



**Carmelita Jeter**

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas | Coaching career began in 2004 | Joined UNLV in May 2023**

**Three-time Olympic medalist (gold 4x100 relay, silver 100m, bronze 200m, 2012), eight-time world championships medalist, second-fastest American woman in the 100m. Began coaching at Bishop Montgomery High School; held staff roles at USC, Alabama, Missouri State, and Cal State Dominguez Hills.**

**Robyne Johnson**

**University of California, Berkeley | Coaching career began in 1995 | Joined Cal in June 2019  
Director of track and field and cross country; previously head coach at Boston University and assistant coach for U.S. Olympic teams. Built nationally competitive programs in sprints, jumps, and multi-events.**

**Rosalind Joseph**

**Ohio State University | Coaching career began in 2008 | Joined Ohio State on June 15, 2022**

**Director of track and field and cross country; led the Buckeyes to multiple NCAA qualifiers and strong Big Ten finishes. Returned to her alma mater after developing All-Americans and building competitive programs.**



**Joanna Hayes**

**University of California, Los Angeles | Coaching career began in 2003 | Joined UCLA in 2014**

**Olympic gold medalist (100m hurdles, 2004) and NCAA champion. Named director of track and field and cross country at UCLA in 2024 after helping lead USC to the 2021 NCAA outdoor title.**

**LaTanya Sheffield**

**Long Beach State | Coaching career began in 2006 | Joined staff Oct. 22, 2012; promoted to director in 2025**

**Olympian and former NCAA champion; served as U.S. women's head coach for the 2024 Paris Olympics and 2022 world championships. Named director of track and field and cross country in 2025.**

**Connie Price-Smith**

**University of Mississippi | Coaching career began in 2001 | Joined Ole Miss on July 21, 2015**

**Four-time Olympian and USA Track & Field Hall of Fame inductee; longtime head coach who has developed NCAA champions and All-Americans while also serving as Team USA head coach.**

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## **Basketball**

**Dawn Staley**

**University of South Carolina | Coaching career began in 2000 | Joined South Carolina as head coach on May 7, 2008**

**Inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame (2013) and Women's Basketball Hall of Fame (2012). Led the program to three national championships (2017, 2022, 2024) and seven Final Four appearances.**



**Tanya Warren**

**University of Northern Iowa | Coaching career began in 1988 | Joined Northern Iowa as head coach on April 24, 2007**

**All-time wins leader at UNI women's basketball; led the Panthers to MVC regular season titles (2011, 2016), MVC tournament championships (2010, 2011), and multiple postseason runs, including the NCAA Tournament (2010, 2011) and WNIT Semifinals (2021). Recorded her 350th career win on Feb. 1, 2026.**



**Niele Ivey**

**University of Notre Dame | Coaching career began in 2005 | Joined Notre Dame on April 22, 2020**

**Former WNBA player; longtime assistant before becoming head coach. Won the 2018 national championship as an assistant and has led multiple NCAA tournament runs.**

**Yolett McPhee-McCuin**

**University of Mississippi | Coaching career began in 2004 | Joined Ole Miss in 2018**

**Led Jacksonville University (2013–2018) before Ole Miss; guided the Rebels to multiple NCAA Tournament appearances, including the Sweet 16 (2023), with continued postseason success through the 2024–25 season.**

**Felisha Legette-Jack**

**Syracuse University | Coaching career began in 1989 | Joined Syracuse on March 26, 2022**

**2024 ACC Coach of the Year; Syracuse Hall of Famer and former standout. Led Hofstra and Buffalo to multiple NCAA Tournament appearances.**

**Kara Lawson**

**Duke University | Coaching career began in 2019 | Joined Duke as head coach on July 11, 2020**

**Former WNBA player and Olympic gold medalist; first female assistant coach for the Boston Celtics. Has led Duke to five NCAA Tournament appearances (2022–2026).**

**Stacie Terry-Hutson**

**San Diego State University | Coaching career began in 1999 | Joined San Diego State as head coach on May 15, 2013**

**Led SDSU to multiple Mountain West tournament appearances and NCAA Tournament berths while developing all-conference players.**

**Dawn Thornton**

**Alabama A&M University | Coaching career began in 2007 | Joined Alabama A&M on April 6, 2024**

**Named SWAC Coach of the Year after leading a record-setting season, including a 17-game winning streak.**



**Ty Grace**

**Howard University | Coaching career began in 1998 | Joined Howard as head coach on May 18, 2015**

**Led the program to multiple MEAC title game appearances, including the 2021–22 championship, and is approaching 250 career wins.**

**Lindsey Harding**

**Los Angeles Lakers | Coaching career began in 2015 | Joined Lakers as assistant coach on July 16, 2024**

**Former WNBA player; previously served in player development and as a G League head coach, earning Coach of the Year honors.**



**Tierra Terry**

**Winston-Salem State University | Coaching career began in 2012 | Joined WSSU as head coach on April 15, 2025**

**Led her alma mater to a historic 28–4 record in the 2025–26 season, setting a program record for wins and a 16-game winning streak. Guided WSSU to the 2026 CIAA Tournament championship and an NCAA Division II Sweet 16 appearance; named 2026 CIAA Coach of the Year and earned a contract extension on March 26, 2026.**

**Suntana "Sunny" Anderson**

**Marian University | Coaching career began in 2007 | Joined Marian as head coach on May 24, 2024**

**Led the program to the 2026 NAIA national championship in her second season.**

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## Soccer

### Kia McNeill

**Brown University | Coaching career began in 2009 | Joined Brown as head coach on Dec. 30, 2015**

**Developed multiple all-conference players and led the program to conference tournament appearances.**

### Yolanda Thomas

**Orlando Pride | Coaching career began in 2012 | Joined Orlando Pride on March 3, 2023**

**Assistant coach during the club's 2024 NWSL Shield and championship season. Named head coach of the U.S. U-23 women's national team in 2025.**



### Karla Thompson

**NWSL / U.S. Soccer | Coaching career began in 1986 | Appointed NWSL Director of Youth Development on Sept. 6, 2024**

**Longtime coaching educator and executive with experience at the collegiate and professional levels.**

**Staci Wilson**

**Tallahassee Reckoning / Pine School | Coaching career began in 2000 | Joined Tallahassee on March 7, 2024**

**Olympic gold medalist (1996) and former UNC standout; leads development at both club and school level**

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**Volleyball**



**Marci Byers**

**Virginia Tech | Coaching career began in 1996 | Joined Virginia Tech in January 2020**

**Previously the winningest coach in Radford history; led Virginia Tech to a program-record start and postseason appearances.**

**Benavia Jenkins**

**University of North Carolina, Charlotte | Coaching career began in 2010 | Joined Charlotte on Dec. 23, 2024**

**Former head coach at ETSU led Charlotte to a conference tournament appearance in her first season.**

**Jazmyne Johnson**

**Tarleton State | Coaching career began in 2018 | Joined Tarleton State on Dec. 17, 2024**

Led the program through its Division I transition and secured her first head coaching win in 2025.

**Charita Stubbs**

**University of Arizona | Coaching career began in 1997 | Joined Arizona on Jan. 18, 2023**

**Former Arizona player; led the program to a postseason title and NCAA Tournament appearance.**



**Haley Eckerman**

**Kent State University | Coaching career began in 2018 | Joined Kent State on March 7, 2022**

**Head coach of women's volleyball; guided the program's re-establishment and culture-building, coaching multiple student-athletes to All-MAC Freshman honors and career milestones. Played at the University of Texas (2011–2014), earning four-time All-American honors and the 2012 NCAA National Championship.**

**Salima Rockwell**

**University of Notre Dame | Coaching career began in 2001 | Joined Notre Dame as head coach on Jan. 6, 2022**

**Began as an assistant at Pittsburgh (2001–03) and won four national championships at Penn State and Texas. Former ESPN and Big Ten Network analyst; compiled a 45–66 record from 2022–25.**

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## Swimming



**Tanica Jamison**

**University of Houston | Coaching career began in 2009 | Joined Houston as head coach on May 27, 2021**

**Former NCAA champion and All-American at Texas; led Houston to back-to-back AAC titles (2022–23) and multiple NCAA qualifiers.**

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## Softball

**Marissa Young**

**Duke University | Coaching career began in 2008 | Joined Duke as head coach on July 29, 2015**

**Led the program to its first ACC championship (2021) and Women's College World Series appearance (2024).**

**Tairia Flowers**

**Loyola Marymount University | Coaching career began in 2004 | Joined LMU on Oct. 26, 2020**

**Led the program to conference titles and NCAA Tournament appearances. Recently named head coach for the Portland Cascade in the Athletes Unlimited Softball League (2026).**

**Trena Prater**

**University of Memphis | Coaching career began in 2003 | Joined Memphis on Aug. 12, 2024**

**Led the program to its highest win total in recent seasons and a conference tournament victory.**

**Tyra Perry**

**University of Illinois | Coaching career began in 2001 | Joined Illinois in June 2015**

**Reached 700 career wins in early 2026; led multiple NCAA Tournament teams.**

**Sharonda McDonald-Kelley**

**Michigan State University | Coaching career began in 2009 | Joined Michigan State on June 10, 2022**

**Previously led Campbell to conference titles; continues to build the Spartans program.**

**Brittney Williams**

**Southern University | Coaching career began in 2021 | Joined Southern in 2021**

**Led the program to its highest win total in over a decade.**



**MJ Knighten**

**University of San Diego | Coaching career began in 2017 | Joined San Diego on Aug. 28, 2020**

**First Black woman to lead the program; continues to guide its Division I growth.**

**Kella Armstrong**

**Queens University of Charlotte | Coaching career began in 2021 | Joined Queens on April 24, 2023**

**Led the program to its first ASUN Championship berth.**

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## **Gymnastics**



**Nuriya Mack**

**Fisk University | Coaching career began in 2023 | Joined Fisk as permanent head coach in July 2025**

**Led the program to its first team title at the HBCU Gymnastics Classic (Feb 2026) and set a program-record score.**