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## Head Coaches of Women's Collegiate Teams

A REPORT ON SELECT NCAA DIVISION-I FBS INSTITUTIONS 2014-2015


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The report and infographic can be downloaded free of charge at http://z.umn.edu/womencoachesreport
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# Head Coaches of Women's Collegiate Teams 

## A REPORT ON SELECT NCAA DIVISION-I FBS INSTITUTIONS 2014-15

This longitudinal research series, now in its third year, is a partnership between the Tucker Center for Research on Girls \& Women in Sport at the University of Minnesota-the first research center of its kind in the world-and the Alliance of Women Coaches, an organization dedicated to increasing the number of women in the coaching profession.

In the first benchmark report of this longitudinal research series, The Decline of Women Coaches in Collegiate Athletics: A Report on Select NCAA Division-I FBS Institutions, 2012-13 (LaVoi, 2013), we detailed the historical decline in the percentage of women head coaches in the $40+$ years following the passage of Title IX, explained why this research and women coaches matter and how minority status in the workplace can affect individuals, provided rationale for why examining employment patterns in "big time" athletics programs is important, and reported the percentage of women in all coaching positions in 76 institutions by sport and conference. Additionally, we assigned a grade to each institution, sport, and conference based on the percentage of women head coaches of women's teams and detailed the process and rationale for our data collection, methodology, and grading criteria. We also raised a number of important questions and highlighted missing information in the current body of knowledge that would help us answer a critical question: What can be done to retain and increase the percentage of women who are in the coaching profession?

## Purpose

The purpose of this research series is multifacted: 1) to document and benchmark the percentage of women coaches of women's teams in "big time" college athletics; 2) to provide evidence that will help retain and increase the percentage of women who are in the coaching profession; 3) to track the effectiveness of initiatives aimed at reversing the decline of the percentage of women in coaching; and 4) to bring awareness while providing an evidencebased starting point for a national discussion on this important issue. In this report we answer the following research question: What percentage of women occupy head coach positions for women's sport teams in 86 select "big time" athletics programs during the 2014-15 academic year?

## Methodology

Documenting and adhering to a rigorous methodology is important for transparency, comparison to other data, and consistency in tracking and reporting over time. For a detailed account of our methodology, coding key, data collection, reliability processes, and how we determined and developed grading criteria, see the 2012-13 report (LaVoi, 2013) which can be downloaded free of charge at http://www.TuckerCenter.org.

Data for this report was collected from November 2014 through December 2014 by visiting each institution's athletics website and reviewing the coaching roster/staff for the 2014-15 academic year for each NCAA-sponsored and NCAA-emerging sport for each women's team listed. Non-NCAA-sponsored sports (pistol, sailing, squash, synchronized swimming) and head coaches ( $n=7$ ) of those five sports included in previous reports were eliminated from the 2014-15 data set. Our goal was to achieve $100 \%$ accuracy and many efforts were undertaken to ensure reliable data. As with any data, the numbers reported herein have a small (less than $\pm .25 \%$ ) margin of error.

All individuals listed on the coaching roster as "Head Coach" were recorded. Diving coaches were coded as head coaches. The methodology in coding "Director of Sport" positions from previous reports was modified based on stakeholder feedback and our desire to accurately "count" head coaches. A Director of Sport, common in track \& field and swimming \& diving, was coded as the head coach if no head women's coach was listed in the staff roster or noted specifically within any of the coach biographies. A Director of Sport was not counted/included if a head coach was present by title or within the text of a coach biography. An individual who occupied the head coach position for two sports (e.g., head coach for track \& field and cross country) was coded as two separate coaches. In some cases the number of head coaches is greater (due to co-head coaches, and inclusion of diving) or less (due to unfilled positions at the time of data collection) than the number of sports offered at a particular institution.

## SAMPLE

The 2014-15 dataset included all head coaches of women's teams $(N=971)$ at 86 institutions of higher education in all geographic regions of the United States that were current members of seven select NCAA Division-I "big time" conferences: American Athletic Conference (AAC), Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), Big 12, Big East, Big Ten, Pacific-12 (Pac-12), and Southeastern Conference (SEC). Appendix A summarizes the distribution of schools by conference recorded for 2014-15. Due to conference realignment, the American Athletic Conference and seven institutions (East Carolina, Houston, Memphis, Southern Methodist University, Tulane, Tulsa, University of Central Florida) in the AAC that were not already in the data set, as well institutions new to the Big East (Butler, Creighton, Xavier) were added to the 2014-15 data set. All 76 institutions included in the previous two reports, 2012-13 and 2013-14, were retained (LaVoi, 2013; LaVoi, 2014).

## GRADE CRITERIA

The scale used to assign grades is as follows: $\mathrm{A}=\mathbf{7 0 - 1 0 0}, \mathrm{B}=\mathbf{5 5 - 6 9}, \mathrm{C}=\mathbf{4 0 - 5 4}, \mathrm{D}=\mathbf{2 5 - 3 9}$, $\mathbf{F}=\mathbf{0 - 2 4 \%}$. If rounding up the decimal resulted in moving up a grade level, the institution, sport, or conference was placed in the higher grade bracket. Institutions with the same female head coach percentage were ordered alphabetically.

## Results

## TOTAL HEAD COACHES

A total of 971 head coaches of women's teams from 86 institutions comprised this sample. Two positions remained unfilled (Diving Seton Hall, Sand Volleyball TCU) and were not included in analysis, resulting in a total sample of $N=969$. In 2014-15 three positions were eliminated (Co-Head Coach Gymnastics Alabama, Co-Head Coach Gymnastics Arkansas, Cross Country Head Coach for Wisconsin was rolled into Director of TF/XC), and one position was added (Head Coach Sand Volleyball TCU). The percentage of women head coaches improved slightly ( $0.6 \%$ ) from 2013-14 (39.6\%) to 2014-15 (40.2\%) (see Table 1).

TABLE 1. PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN HEAD COACHES FOR WOMEN'S TEAMS

| Position | Schools | Female |  | Male |  | Total Coaches |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $N$ | $\%$ | $n$ | $\%$ | $n$ | $N$ |
| 2012-13 Head Coaches | 76 | 40.2 | 356 | 59.8 | 530 | 886 |
| 2013-14 Head Coaches | 76 | 39.6 | 352 | 60.4 | 536 | 888 |
| 2014-15 Head Coaches | 86 | 40.2 | 390 | 59.8 | 579 | 969 |

## HEAD COACH TURNOVER

In the 2014-15 academic year, 85 out of 969 ( $8.8 \%$ ) existing head coach positions turned over, compared to 2013-14 ( 66 of $886 ; 7.4 \%$ ). In Table 2 the gender composition of the former coach-new coach hire dyad is summarized (e.g., if a male coach was replaced by a female, that was coded as male-female), one position vacated by a male remained unfilled. In half of all vacant positions ( $50 \%$ ) a male replaced a male. In the majority of vacancies ( 51 of $84,60.7 \%$ ) a male was hired, an improvement from 2013-14, where $74.2 \%$ of vacant positions were filled by a male. The number of vacancies where a female replaced a female doubled from 2013-14 ( $n=$ $7,10.6 \%)$ to 2014-15 ( $n=18,21.2 \%$ ). Fifteen times a female replaced a male, and nine times a male replaced a female, resulting in a net gain ( +6 ) of female head coaches for this year.

Over half ( 49 of $86,57 \%$ ) of the institutions in the sample experienced coach turnover. Most schools ( $n=25$ ) had one coach change; 14 institutions had two coach changes; nine schools (UConn, Iowa, Kansas State, Maryland, Penn State, Rutgers, Stanford, Texas, Washington State) had three coach changes; and one school (Notre Dame) had four head coach positions turn over in one academic year. Over the last two years, Penn State recorded the highest rate of head coach turnover $(n=7)$ for their women's teams.

TABLE 2. GENDER COMPOSITION OF HEAD COACH VACANCY HIRES FROM 2013-14 TO 2014-15

| Former Coach-New Coach <br> Gender Dyad | Frequency | Percentage |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Male-Male | 42 | 50.0 |
| Female-Male | 9 | 10.7 |
| Male-Female | 15 | 17.9 |
| Female-Female | 18 | 21.4 |
| TOTAL | 84 | 100 |

Note: 1 position, Diving Seton Hall, remained unfilled.

## BY SPORT

The percentage of women head coaches in 23 sports varied greatly (see Table 3). Field hockey ( $100 \%$ ), lacrosse ( $92.6 \%$ ), and golf ( $76.3 \%$ ) continued to have a large majority of female head coaches. Two sports-water polo and alpine skiing-sustained all male coaches. Over twice as many sports received failing grades of Ds or Fs ( $n=14$ ) as received As or Bs $(n=6)$. Eight sports had no change; 13 sports increased (compared to 4 in 2013-14!) with one sport (bowling) moving up a grade level; and two sports (golf, rowing) decreased (compared to 8 in 2013-14) in percentage of female head coaches. One sport (rowing) moved down a grade. Table 4 contains the breakdown of coach hires by gender dyad and sport; basketball, cross country, soccer, and tennis had the highest coach turnover rates.

TABLE 3. GRADE BY SPORT FOR PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE HEAD COACHES FOR 2014-15

| Grade | Criteria | Sport |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A | 100-70 | field hockey (100\%), lacrosse (92.6\%), equestrian ( $+77.8 \%$ ), golf (-76.3\%) |
| B | 69-55 | softball ( $+69 \%$ ), basketball ( $+62.8 \%$ ) |
| C | 54-40 | gymnastics ( $+52.9 \%$ ), nordic skiing ( $50 \%$ ), tennis ( $+41.9 \%$ ) |
| D | 39-25 | volleyball ( $+38.8 \%$ ), rifle ( $37.5 \%$ ), rowing ( $\downarrow 36.6 \%$ ), bowling ( $\uparrow 33.3 \%$ ), sand volleyball ( $+30.8 \%$ ), soccer ( $+27.4 \%$ ), fencing ( $27.3 \%$ ) |
| F | 24-0 | cross country ( $+17.4 \%$ ), swimming ( $+14.1 \%$ ), ice hockey ( $12.5 \%$ ), diving ( $+8.6 \%$ ), track \& field ( $+8.4 \%$ ), water polo ( $0 \%$ ), alpine skiing ( $0 \%$ ) |

$\downarrow$ Sport decreased percentage of women head coaches and moved down a grade from 2013-14 to 2014-15

- Sport decreased percentage of women head coaches, but did not move down a grade
+ Sport increased percentage of women head coaches, but did not move up a grade
$\uparrow$ Sport increased percentage of women head coaches and moved up a grade


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TABLE 4. HEAD COACH NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE ALPHABETICALLY BY SPORT, GENDER, AND HIRING DYADS FOR WOMEN'S TEAMS

|  | Head Coaches |  |  |  |  | Former Coach-New Coach Hire Gender Dyads |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Female |  | Male |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sport | \% | $n$ | \% | $n$ | $N$ | malemale | malefemale | femalefemale | femalemale | TOTAL HIRES |
| Basketball | 62.8 | 54 | 37.2 | 32 | 86 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| Bowling | 33.3 | 1 | 66.6 | 2 | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cross Country | 17.4 | 15 | 82.6 | 71 | 86 | 7 | 2 |  | 1 | 10 |
| Diving | 8.6 | 5 | 91.4 | 53 | 58 | 5 |  | 1 |  | 6 |
| Equestrian | 77.8 | 7 | 22.2 | 2 | 9 |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |
| Fencing | 27.3 | 3 | 72.7 | 8 | 11 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Field Hockey | 100 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 23 |  |  | 2 |  | 2 |
| Golf | 76.3 | 58 | 23.7 | 18 | 76 |  | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Gymnastics | 52.9 | 18 | 47.1 | 16 | 34 |  | 1 | 2 |  | 3 |
| Ice Hockey | 12.5 | 1 | 87.5 | 7 | 8 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lacrosse | 92.6 | 25 | 7.4 | 2 | 27 |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |
| Rifle | 37.5 | 3 | 62.5 | 5 | 8 |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |
| Rowing | 36.6 | 15 | 63.4 | 26 | 41 | 3 |  |  | 1 | 4 |
| Sand Volleyball | 30.8 | 4 | 69.2 | 9 | 13 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Skiing-Alpine | 0 | 0 | 100 | 3 | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Skiing-Nordic | 50 | 1 | 50 | 1 | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Soccer | 27.4 | 23 | 72.6 | 61 | 84 | 7 | 1 |  |  | 8 |
| Softball | 69 | 49 | 31 | 22 | 71 |  | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Swimming | 14.1 | 9 | 85.9 | 55 | 64 | 3 | 1 |  |  | 4 |
| Tennis | 41.9 | 36 | 58.1 | 50 | 86 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 10 |
| Track \& Field | 8.4 | 7 | 91.6 | 76 | 83 | 5 | 1 |  | 1 | 7 |
| Volleyball | 38.8 | 33 | 61.2 | 52 | 85 | 4 |  | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| Water Polo | 0 | 0 | 100 | 8 | 8 | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| TOTAL | 40.2 | 390 | 59.8 | 579 | 969 | 42 | 15 | 18 | 9 | 84 |

## BY INSTITUTION

The range for percentage of women head coaches by institution varied dramatically from the highest ( $90 \%$ Cincinnati) to the lowest ( $0 \%$ Xavier) (see Table 5). Based on the percentage of women head coaches, only two (2.3\%) of the 86 institutions received an A for being above average compared to peer institutions-a number that doubled from one institution in 201314. Three-years running, leader of the pack Cincinnati (90\%) and 2014-15 sample newcomer Central Florida (88.9\%) earned the As.

Table 5 contains the grade assigned to each institution, including which institutions moved up or down a grade level or increased or decreased in percentage of head female coaches. From 2013-14 to 2014-15, over one-fourth of institutions ( $n=21$ of 76, 27.6\%) increased the percentage of female head coaches, a much higher rate than the previous year ( $n=7,9.2 \%$ ), a result explained in the following paragraph. The 10 institutions new to the

TABLE 5. 2014-15 GRADES BY INSTITUTION FOR PERCENT OF WOMEN HEAD COACHES OF WOMEN'S TEAMS

| A (70-100\%) | B (55-69\%) | C (40-54\%) | D (25-39\%) | F (0-24\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cincinnati (90\%)+ | Miami (60\%) | Michigan State (53.8\%) | Arizona State (38.5\%) + | Mississippi (22.2\%) $\downarrow$ |
| Central Florida (88.9\%) | LSU (58.3\%) + | Tennessee (53.8\%) $\uparrow$ | Connecticut (38.5\%) $\downarrow$ | Tulsa (22.2\%) |
|  | Minnesota (57.1\%) $\uparrow$ | Ohio State (52.9\%) + | Indiana (38.5\%) + | Vanderbilt (22.2\%) |
|  | UCLA (57.1\%) | Colorado (50\%) | South Carolina (38.5\%) | Virginia Tech (20\%) |
|  | Washington St. (55.6\%) | Florida (50\%) | USC (38.5\%) | Syracuse (18.2\%) |
|  | Florida State (54.5\%)* | Georgia Tech (50\%) | Villanova (38.5\%) | West Virginia (18.2\%) |
|  | Illinois (54.5\%)* | Kansas State (50\%) | Mississippi St. (37.5\%)+ | Kentucky (16.7\%) |
|  | Maryland (54.5\%)* $\uparrow$ | Northwestern (50\%) | Seton Hall (37.5\%) + \$ | NC State (16.7\%) |
|  | SMU (54.5\%)* | Oklahoma (50\%) | Texas Tech (37.5\%) + | Oklahoma St. (12.5\%) |
|  |  | Oregon (50\%) $\uparrow$ | Wake Forest (37.5\%) | Arkansas (9.1\%) - |
|  |  | South Florida (50\%) | Iowa State (36.4\%) | Xavier (0\%) |
|  |  | Stanford (47.4\%) + | Providence (36.4\%) |  |
|  |  | Michigan (46.7\%) | Texas A \& M (36.4\%) |  |
|  |  | Duke (46.2\%) $\uparrow$ | Nebraska (35.7\%) |  |
|  |  | Georgetown (46.2\%) $\uparrow$ | Auburn (33.3\%) |  |
|  |  | Iowa (46.2\%) - | Butler (33.3\%) |  |
|  |  | Louisville (46.2\%) | Georgia (33.3\%) |  |
|  |  | Notre Dame (46.2\%) $\uparrow$ | Missouri (33.3\%) |  |
|  |  | Wisconsin (46.2\%) + | Utah (30.8\%) + |  |
|  |  | TCU (45.5\%) | Virginia (30.8\%) |  |
|  |  | Texas (45.5\%) $\downarrow$ | Baylor (30\%) + |  |
|  |  | Washington (45.5\%) - | E. Carolina (30\%) |  |
|  |  | Memphis (44.4\%) | Houston (30\%) |  |
|  |  | St. John's (44.4\%) | Pittsburgh (30\%) |  |
|  |  | Boston College (43.8\%)+ | Purdue (30\%) |  |
|  |  | UC Berkeley (43.8\%) - | DePaul (28.6\%) |  |
|  |  | Marquette (42.9\%) | Rutgers (28.6\%) |  |
|  |  | Temple (41.7\%) | Kansas (27.3\%) |  |
|  |  | Clemson (40\%) | Alabama (25\%) $\uparrow$ |  |
|  |  | North Carolina (40\%) | Arizona (25\%) |  |
|  |  | Oregon State (40\%) | Creighton (25\%) |  |
|  |  | Penn State (40\%) $\downarrow$ |  |  |
|  |  | Tulane (40\%) |  |  |

* Decimal rounded up causing institution to be placed in higher grade level
$\downarrow$ Institution decreased percentage of women head coaches and moved down a grade from 2013-14 to 2014-15
- Institution decreased percentage of women head coaches, but did not move down a grade
+ Institution increased percentage of women head coaches, but did not move up a grade
$\uparrow$ Institution increased percentage of women head coaches and moved up a grade from 2013-14 to 2014-15
\$ 1 unfilled position vacated by a male resulted in Seton Hall increasing percentage

TABLE 6. HEAD COACH NUMBER AND PERCENT HIGH TO LOW BY INSTITUTION AND GENDER

|  | Head Coaches |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Female |  | Male |  |
| School | \% | N | \% | N |
| Cincinnati | 90\% | 9 | 10\% | 1 |
| Central Florida | 88.9\% | 8 | 11.1\% | 1 |
| Miami | 60\% | 6 | 40\% | 4 |
| LSU | 58.3\% | 7 | 41.7\% | 5 |
| Minnesota | 57.1\% | 8 | 42.9\% | 6 |
| UCLA | 57.1\% | 8 | 42.9\% | 6 |
| Washington State | 55.6\% | 5 | 44.4\% | 4 |
| Florida State | 54.5\% | 6 | 45.5\% | 5 |
| Illinios | 54.5\% | 6 | 45.5\% | 5 |
| Maryland | 54.5\% | 6 | 45.5\% | 5 |
| SMU | 54.5\% | 6 | 45.5\% | 5 |
| Michigan State | 53.8\% | 7 | 46.2\% | 6 |
| Tennessee | 53.8\% | 7 | 46.2\% | 6 |
| Ohio State | 52.9\% | 9 | 47.1\% | 8 |
| Colorado | 50\% | 5 | 50\% | 5 |
| Florida | 50\% | 6 | 50\% | 6 |
| Georgia Tech | 50\% | 4 | 50\% | 4 |
| Kansas State | 50\% | 4 | 50\% | 4 |
| Northwestern | 50\% | 6 | 50\% | 6 |
| Oklahoma | 50\% | 5 | 50\% | 5 |
| Oregon | 50\% | 5 | 50\% | 5 |
| South Florida | 50\% | 4 | 50\% | 4 |
| Stanford | 47.4\% | 9 | 52.6\% | 10 |
| Michigan | 46.7\% | 7 | 53.3\% | 8 |
| Duke | 46.2\% | 6 | 53.8\% | 7 |
| Georgetown | 46.2\% | 6 | 53.8\% | 7 |
| Iowa | 46.2\% | 6 | 53.8\% | 7 |
| Louisville | 46.2\% | 6 | 53.8\% | 7 |
| Notre Dame | 46.2\% | 6 | 53.8\% | 7 |
| Wisconsin | 46.2\% | 6 | 53.8\% | 7 |
| Texas Christian University | 45.5\% | 5 | 54.5\% | 6 |
| Texas | 45.5\% | 5 | 54.5\% | 6 |
| Washington | 45.5\% | 5 | 54.5\% | 6 |
| Memphis | 44.4\% | 4 | 55.6\% | 5 |
| St John's | 44.4\% | 4 | 55.6\% | 5 |
| Boston College | 43.8\% | 7 | 56.2\% | 9 |
| UC Berkeley | 43.8\% | 7 | 56.2\% | 9 |
| Marquette | 42.9\% | 3 | 57.1\% | 4 |
| Temple | 41.7\% | 5 | 58.3\% | 7 |
| Clemson | 40\% | 4 | 60\% | 6 |
| North Carolina | 40\% | 6 | 60\% | 9 |
| Oregon State | 40\% | 4 | 60\% | 6 |
| Penn State | 40\% | 6 | 60\% | 9 |


|  | Head Coaches |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Female |  | Male |  |
| School | \% | N | \% | N |
| Tulane | 40\% | 4 | 60\% | 6 |
| Arizona State | 38.5\% | 5 | 61.5\% | 8 |
| Connecticut | 38.5\% | 5 | 61.5\% | 8 |
| Indiana | 38.5\% | 5 | 61.5\% | 8 |
| South Carolina | 38.5\% | 5 | 61.5\% | 8 |
| USC | 38.5\% | 5 | 61.5\% | 8 |
| Villanova | 38.5\% | 5 | 61.5\% | 8 |
| Mississippi State | 37.5\% | 3 | 62.5\% | 5 |
| Seton Hall | 37.5\% | 3 | 62.5\% | 5 |
| Texas Tech | 37.5\% | 3 | 62.5\% | 5 |
| Wake Forest | 37.5\% | 3 | 62.5\% | 5 |
| Iowa State | 36.4\% | 4 | 63.6\% | 7 |
| Providence | 36.4\% | 4 | 63.6\% | 7 |
| Texas A \& M | 36.4\% | 4 | 63.6\% | 7 |
| Nebraska | 35.7\% | 5 | 64.3\% | 9 |
| Auburn | 33.3\% | 4 | 66.7\% | 8 |
| Butler | 33.3\% | 3 | 66.7\% | 6 |
| Georgia | 33.3\% | 4 | 66.7\% | 8 |
| Missouri | 33.3\% | 4 | 66.7\% | 8 |
| Utah | 30.8\% | 4 | 69.2\% | 9 |
| Virginia | 30.8\% | 4 | 69.2\% | 9 |
| Baylor | 30\% | 3 | 70\% | 7 |
| E. Carolina | 30\% | 3 | 70\% | 7 |
| Houston | 30\% | 3 | 70\% | 7 |
| Pittsburgh | 30\% | 3 | 70\% | 7 |
| Purdue | 30\% | 3 | 70\% | 7 |
| DePaul | 28.6\% | 2 | 71.4\% | 5 |
| Rutgers | 28.6\% | 4 | 71.4\% | 10 |
| Kansas | 27.3\% | 3 | 72.7\% | 8 |
| Alabama | 25\% | 3 | 75\% | 9 |
| Arizona | 25\% | 3 | 75\% | 9 |
| Creighton | 25\% | 2 | 75\% | 6 |
| Mississippi | 22.2\% | 2 | 77.8\% | 7 |
| Tulsa | 22.2\% | 2 | 77.8\% | 7 |
| Vanderbilt | 22.2\% | 2 | 77.8\% | 7 |
| Virginia Tech | 20\% | 2 | 80\% | 8 |
| Syracuse | 18.2\% | 2 | 81.8\% | 9 |
| West Virginia | 18.2\% | 2 | 81.8\% | 9 |
| Kentucky | 16.7\% | 2 | 83.3\% | 10 |
| North Carolina State | 16.7\% | 2 | 83.3\% | 10 |
| Oklahoma State | 12.5\% | 1 | 87.5\% | 7 |
| Arkansas | 9.1\% | 1 | 83.3\% | 10 |
| Xavier | 0\% | 0 | 100\% | 8 |

sample were not included in the analysis of no change, increase, or decrease in percentage or grade. However, the 10 institutions were distributed across each grade category but were weighted on the low end of the grade scale ( $A=1, B=1, C=2, D=4, F=2$ ).

Six institutions moved up a grade level: two moved from $C$ to $B$ (Minnesota, due to deletion of one male Director of TF/XC position; Maryland, a male-female golf hire), three moved from D to C (Tennessee had a male-female TF/XC hire that counted for +2 women; Georgetown, a male-female basketball hire and deletion of one male Director of TF/XC; Notre Dame, a male-female soccer hire), and Alabama moved up from F to D (previously had a male-with-female co-head gymnastics pair, now has solo female head coach). Of note, the increase in percentage of head female coaches in 9 of 21 schools (Alabama, Baylor, Boston College, Minnesota, Miss State, Ohio State, Seton Hall, Wisconsin, Utah) can be attributed to methodological reasons-Director of Sport recode $(n=4)$, position deletion $(n=2)$, deletion of a non-NCAA sponsored sport $(n=2)$, or unfilled position $(n=1)$-rather than to the hiring of a female coach. Therefore, 12 of 76 ( $15.8 \%$ ) institutions improved in percentage of female head coaches due to hiring a female.

Eight institutions (compared to 13 in the previous year) registered a decrease in the percentage of women head coaches, resulting in four institutions dropping to a lower grade level: two schools dropped from B to C (Penn State, Texas); one school dropped from C to D (UConn); and one school dropped from D to F (Mississippi). All grade drops were due to a loss of one or more female coaches. Just over half of the institutions (47 of 76, 61.8\%) maintained the percentage of women head coaches and remained in the same grade category. The lack of change can be attributed to three reasons: 1) no coach turnover occured; 2) a same-sex individual was hired to replace the outgoing coach (male-male, female-female); or 3) multiple coach hires in the same institution offset each other (male-female, female-male). Table 6 contains percentage and number of female and male coaches for each institution, ordered from highest to lowest.

For 2014-15, nearly half ( 42 of $86,49.4 \%$ ) of institutions received Ds or Fs, a number that decreased slightly (meaning improvement) from $52.6 \%$ in 2013-14 (see Table 7). A significant majority of institutions (74.4\%) remained within the C and D grade levels. An identical percentage of institutions received As or $\mathrm{Bs}(12.9 \%)$ as received a failing grade of F (12.9\%), a statistic which has remained consistent over three years.

TABLE 7. DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES BY INSTITUTION FOR PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN HEAD COACHES

|  |  | 2012-2013 |  | 2013-2014 |  | 2014-2015 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Grade | Grade <br> Criteria | Institutions | Institutions <br> Receiving <br> Grade | Institutions | Institutions <br> Receiving <br> Grade | Institutions | Institutions <br> Receiving <br> Grade |
| A | $\mathbf{1 0 0 - 7 0}$ | 3 | $4.0 \%$ | 1 | $1.3 \%$ | 2 | $2.3 \%$ |
| B | $\mathbf{6 9 - 5 5}$ | 6 | $7.9 \%$ | 8 | $10.5 \%$ | 9 | $10.6 \%$ |
| C | $\mathbf{5 4 - 4 0}$ | 29 | $38.2 \%$ | 27 | $35.5 \%$ | 33 | $38.8 \%$ |
| D | $\mathbf{3 9 - 2 5}$ | 30 | $39.5 \%$ | 31 | $40.8 \%$ | 31 | $36.5 \%$ |
| F | $\mathbf{2 4 - 0}$ | 8 | $10.5 \%$ | 9 | $11.8 \%$ | 11 | $12.9 \%$ |
| TOTAL |  | 76 | $100 \%$ | 76 | $100 \%$ | 86 | $100 \%$ |

## BY CONFERENCE

The AAC (47.7\%) and Big Ten (45.4\%) had the highest and the SEC (34.2\%) and Big East (34\%) had the lowest percentage of female head coaches (see Table 8). Given the only institutions that earned As are members of the AAC, it not surprising the AAC ranks highest. Using the grading criteria, all conferences earned a C or D. Compared to 2012-13 data, four conferences decreased (ACC, Big 12, Big East, Big Ten) and two (Pac-12, SEC) increased their percentage of female head coaches, resulting in two conferences moving down a grade. The Big East decreased the most ( $41.4 \%$ to $34 \%$ ) over two years, largely because top-graded Cincinnati moved to the AAC. The AAC was not in the 2012-13 sample. The percentage of women head coaches in "The Big Five" conferences (ACC, Big 12, Big Ten, Pac-12, SEC) was $39.8 \%$.

TABLE 8. GRADE BY CONFERENCE FOR PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN HEAD COACHES

| Grade | Criteria | Conference |
| :---: | :--- | :--- |
| A | $\mathbf{1 0 0 - 7 0}$ |  |
| B | $\mathbf{6 9 - 5 5}$ |  |
| C | $\mathbf{5 4 - 4 0}$ | AAC (47.7\%), Big Ten (-45.4\%), Pac-12 (+43.3\%) |
| D | $\mathbf{3 9 - 2 5}$ | ACC ( $\downarrow 38.7 \%)$, Big $12(-35 \%)$, SEC ( $+34.2 \%)$, Big East ( $\downarrow 34 \%)$ |
| F | $\mathbf{2 4 - 0}$ |  |

Note: Institution decreased (-) or increased (+) percentage of women head coaches; moved down $\downarrow$ or up $\uparrow$ a grade.

## Conclusion

The goal of this research series is to document the percentage of women collegiate head coaches and add to the excellent work in this area conducted by our colleagues (Acosta \& Carpenter, 2012; Lapchick et al., 2013; Wilson, 2012). The numerous, complex barriers and limits to coaching opportunities that women coaches experience is evidenced not only in the academic literature (see LaVoi \& Dutove, 2012) but is reflected in stories of women coaches that appear regularly in the popular press. Data in this report of 86 big-time FBS NCAA Division-I athletic programs documented a slight increase and net gain of women head coaches of women's teams over one academic year. When a coach position turned over, in over half of all vacancies ( $61 \%$ ) a male was hired. Consistent with past years, a select few institutions are above average compared to peer institutions, and this year marked the first time an institution (Xavier, new to the sample and Big East in 2014-15) had no female head coaches. Opportunity for improvement is evident. Institutional leader of the pack Cincinnati increased in percentage of women coaches ( +1 female hired) and remained atop peer institutions for the third year in a row by having the highest percentage of female head coaches-all but one of their 10 women's teams are coached by a female. In all seven conferences, men retained the majority of head coach positions. In addition, while field hockey maintained all women head coaches, water polo and sailing still had none. Overall, the percentage of women head coaches in the biggest and most prominent institutions and profitable conferences from 2013-14 to 2014-15 returned to 2012-13 levels, which means that over the course of three years, no real gains have been realized. Even with the addition of the AAC and the potential to "add" women coaches, the numbers remained remarkably consistent
with previous years. However, from a positive perspective, significant losses are also not evidenced.

The data in this report can be used by institutions and sport coaching associations to advocate for women coaches, track progress or decline in comparison to peer institutions, evaluate the effectiveness of strategies aimed at increasing the percentage of women coaches, and hold institutions and decision makers accountable in creating a gender-balanced workforce-especially for women's teams. It can also be used to educate and motivate stakeholders and decision makers to recruit, hire, and retain women coaches. Together, the Tucker Center for Research on Girls \& Women in Sport at the University of Minnesota and the Alliance of Women Coaches-along with other organizations, groups and individuals-are striving to reverse the trend and increase the percentage of women college coaches, generate awareness and start a national dialogue on this issue, support and retain women coaches, and recruit more women to join the coaching profession. Women who desire to coach should have legitimate opportunities to enter the workforce, experience a supportive, inclusive and positive work climate when they do, and be paid accordingly and fairly for their expertise. Our efforts aspire to the tagline from the Wellesley Centers for Women: "A world that is good for women is good for everyone ${ }^{\mathrm{mm}}$."

To view and download the accompanying infographic for this report, The Status of Women in Collegiate Coaching: A Report Card, go to the Tucker Center website at http://z.umn.edu/ womencoachesreport.

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Appendix A
CONFERENCE COMPOSITION 2014-15

| American Athletic Conference (AAC) | Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) | Big 12 | Big East | Big Ten | Pacific-12 (Pac-12) | Southeastern Conference (SEC) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| University of Central Florida | Boston College | Baylor University | Butler University | University of Illinois | University of Arizona | University of Alabama |
| University of Cincinnati | Clemson University | Iowa State University | Creighton University | University of Indiana | Arizona State University | University of Arkansas |
| University of Connecticut | Duke University | University of Kansas | DePaul University | University of lowa | University of California | Auburn University |
| East Carolina University | Florida State University | Kansas State University | Georgetown University | University of Maryland | University of California <br> - Los Angeles | University of Florida |
| University of Houston | Georgia Institute of Technology | University of Oklahoma | Marquette University | University of Michigan | University of Colorado | University of Georgia |
| University of Memphis | University of Louisville | Oklahoma State University | Providence College | Michigan State University | University of Oregon | University of Kentucky |
| University of South Florida | University of Miami | University of Texas | Seton Hall University | University of Minnesota | Oregon State University | Louisiana State University |
| Southern Methodist University | University of North Carolina | Texas Christian University | St. John's University | University of Nebraska | University of Southern California | University of Mississippi |
| Temple University | North Carolina State University | Texas Tech University | Villanova University | Northwestern University | Stanford University | Mississippi State University |
| Tulane University | University of Notre Dame | West Virginia University | Xavier University | Ohio State University | University of Utah | University of Missouri |
| University of Tulsa | University of Pittsburgh |  |  | Penn State University | University of Washington | University of South Carolina |
|  | Syracuse University |  |  | Purdue University | Washington State University | University of Tennessee |
|  | University of Virginia |  |  | Rutgers University |  | Texas A\&M University |
|  | Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University |  |  | University of Wisconsin |  | Vanderbilt University |
|  | Wake Forest University |  |  |  |  |  |

A report designed to make a difference in the lives of girls and women in sport and to increase the number of women in the coaching profession

