

## Miriam Lynch Potomac Valley Swimming Diversity Chair.

### Why you should select me as 2011-2012 Diversity Chair?

I would be an effective committee member because I will be able to transfer knowledge from my professional and personal experiences to help contribute to the ideas and practices of the committee. Since starting as Diversity Chair in 2010-2011, I have quickly responded to the need in my LSC and surrounding community by creating more inclusion/service programs. I will help the committee accomplish the goals that it sets for itself by being an active participant. From my experiences in the sport, I know what it means to be on both sides of being a minority swimmer and now as a new board member. I am a product of USA Swimming who participated in Junior Nationals, the Black History Meets and National Select Diversity Camp as a swimmer. Currently, as new board member, I participate in a number of other diversity initiatives done by USA Swimming and encourage athletes and coaches in my LSC to participate in these diversity/inclusion efforts as well. I have a proven track record of taking ideas and being able to implement them successfully. The ideas that I have implemented have not only benefitted my LSC, but other LSCs in USA Swimming. I continue to share my ideas with others as well as listen to the input from other people. I am a team player that believes that everyone has something to contribute.

### Skills/Experiences (USA Swimming and other Volunteer Organizations)

The programs and services that I currently work on in Potomac Valley and other LSCs include:

- **2010-2011 PVS Diversity Chair:** Helped to create and implement a voting board member position in my LSC for a diversity chair, but have also helped to increase programs and services that PVS provides to promote membership and education about swimming to the DC and PVS community. Currently the Diversity Chair description written for PVS is being used by USA Swimming for all LSC Diversity Chairs and Committees.
- **PVS Diversity Committee:** helped to reestablish regular meetings in PVS for the Diversity Committee. The Diversity Committee has been able to effectively implement and vote on programs and needs of support in the LSC.
- Created a **PVS Minority Coaches Listserv** 3 years ago that sends out flash mail to over 100+ family and coach members in the yahoo group in PVS and other LSCs about information from USA Swimming and other LSCs Diversity Initiatives and volunteer opportunities available.
- An annual event of **The College Knowledge Event** which had over 120 participants from the Maryland and Potomac Valley LSCs. The College Knowledge Event is designed to inform and give access to the athlete, their families and coaches on how to take their swimming to the next level (NCAA) and prepare them for college and the NCAA process. The College Knowledge Event had information on financial aid, the application process and shared experiences from parents and swimmers in college programs. I also conducted this program in Boston for the Boston Elite Swim Team and other area Boston Recreation swim programs. It is modeled after the USA Swimming's program of "Swimming into College"
- A **Water Safety Event** partnering PVS Swimming, American Red Cross, Tri-Unify, DC Metro Harbor Patrol, National Association of Black Scuba Divers, Navy Seals and DC Parks and Recreation for a one day event aimed at providing a fun-filled, educational program designed to teach and inform the community about aquatic safety, techniques and fun activities while promoting DCPR and USA/Potomac Valley swimming programs that would inform community residents about drowning prevention and pool safety, increase participation in aquatic activities in the Deanwood community, promote USA swimming national goals and objectives of

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decreasing the number of drowning in the community. Make-A-Splash donated information and prizes for participants in the event.

- Currently helping to create a business plan to be submitted to the District of Columbia's school system for a pilot Make-A-Splash/junior lifeguard program to be conducted with the Ronald Brown Middle School students during the school year 2012. The community saw the opportunity to participate and create this program due to the success of the Water Safety Day at the Deanwood Community Center held in June 2010.

### **Other Volunteer Activities include:**

- Working as a volunteer coach for **Nadar Por Vida** which is under Arthur Lopez helping disadvantage youth get an entry to the sport of swimming by aiding them to gain participation in water activities and pass them on to where they can continue to be successful in our communities through the sport of swimming. Also help to address the severe drowning rate among minorities, specifically Latinos and others who may be at high-risk, of low incomes and socially disadvantaged.
- **Howard University Northern Virginia Alumni Association** – Web Master – Currently maintains all aspects of the website in updating and sharing information worldwide for the alumni group of the Northern Virginia area.

### **Skills/Experiences (professional, job related):**

- 6 years as a Business and Information Technology Teacher for Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia (current)
- 6 years as an Assistant Age Group Coach for Curl-Burke Swim Club under Pete Morgan
- Business Strategy and Technology Consultant in Chicago, IL
- Current Swimmer, Marathon Runner and new tri-athlete

### **Professional Development, Leadership, Certifications, Certificates and Awards:**

- Currently in a graduate program studying the Integration of Information Technology in Organizations (May 2011)
- Certificated Virginia State Teacher with an endorsement in Business and Marketing
- Microsoft Office Specialist 2007 (MOS 2007) – Word, PowerPoint and Excel
- Fairfax County – Female Coach of the Year – Swimming
- Graduate of Howard University with a BBA in International Business (2004)
- Howard University Women's Swim Team and Captain, which was one of only three Historically Black Colleges and Universities to have a swim program and held 9 records (1999-2004)
- Participant in the Diversity Camp in Colorado Springs (1997)
- High School All Metropolitan Area Athlete Award Winner (1999)
- Junior National Swimmer Participant while in High School