The Centennial Conference and Bryn Mawr College hosted the 2016 Snell-Shillingford Symposium in April. The weekend allowed 20 female student-athlete representatives and coaches from member schools, including Bryn Mawr, Dickinson, Franklin and Marshall, Gettysburg, Haverford, Johns Hopkins, McDaniel, Muhlenberg, Swarthmore, Ursinus, and Washington College, to participate in sessions designed to empower women in the coaching profession and to encourage them to take up the legacy of those who have gone before them. Participants in the symposium learned about mentoring, team culture and motivation, decision making, and interviewing. Click [here](#) for a video recap.

The symposium was started in 1999 by then-Bryn Mawr College athletic director Jen Shillingford to encourage women undergraduates to enter the field of coaching. The symposium honors the contributions and commitment of two of the most influential women in the coaching profession, Eleanor Frost Snell and Jen Shillingford. Miss Snell, as she was known to her students, served Ursinus College as a professor of health and physical education, coach, and head of the women’s physical education department for four decades, from 1931 to 1971. In keeping with the program’s emphasis on mentoring and passing on the education of coaches from one generation to the next, the symposium also bears the name of Snell’s student and mentee, Jen Shillingford, who served as field hockey coach and athletic director for over 20 years at Bryn Mawr and president of the United States Field Hockey Association (USFHA).

For their efforts in creating diverse and relevant programming for their student-athletes, the Centennial Conference is this month’s recipient of the Diversity Spotlight Initiative.