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NESCAC Holds Inaugural Future Leaders Forum

HADLEY, Mass. – Trinity College, in conjunction with the NESCAC, recently hosted the NESCAC Future Leaders Forum. The two-day forum was a professional development and networking event aimed at promoting the growth of underrepresented coaches and administrators in the early stages of their careers in athletics, while exposing participants to Division III principles.

Each NESCAC member institution was represented by administrators who offered insight into their institutions and career, and highlighted the conference's commitment to diversity and development of the next generation of leaders in college athletics.

“The NESCAC Future Leaders Forum was a great opportunity to effectively network in a field where it is important that people know who you are,” said former Notre Dame College Athletic Compliance Intern Briana Bailey. “My experience with Division III was limited prior to this event, but participating provided me with a glimpse of what Division III administrators and coaches experience daily. The NESCAC administrators were informative, welcoming, and had a willingness to be a sponsor or mentor in the future.”

Trinity College President Joanne Berger-Sweeney kicked off the event by welcoming the group of more than 30 participants to the event. She encouraged the group to use their time to learn, grow, and establish new connections while highlighting the commitment to diversity shared by each NESCAC President. Programming featured guest speakers, including Bob Anderson, a senior instructor, certified assessor and keynote speaker for Leading Challenges, Dr. Meg Hancock, an Associate Professor of Sport Administration and Chair of the Health and Sport Sciences Department at the University of Louisville, and Paul Mounds, Jr., the Vice President of Policy and Communications for the Connecticut Health Foundation.

Throughout the event, participants engaged in topics such as professional and personal branding, maintaining work-life alignment, job searches and how to be placed in candidate pools, and networking best practices. NESCAC athletic directors, senior woman administrators, and coaches shared their experiences in their career paths while serving on panels and leading small-group breakout sessions. Participants gained knowledge of the skills needed to advance in their careers, as well as be successful in their current positions. Participants had several opportunities to put these concepts into practice as they built their professional networks with NESCAC administrators and coaches, in addition to fellow attendees, and cultivated new perspectives.

“The NESCAC is dedicated to providing opportunities for underrepresented populations, and the NESCAC Future Leaders Forum served as a great way to underscore this commitment,” said NESCAC Executive Director Andrea Savage. “It was encouraging to see the investment these young professionals are making in their own development. We were pleased to provide an opportunity for participants to enhance their skill sets, build their networks, and prepare for their futures.”