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Coaches of all sports have drawn parallels between success in the athletic arenas and success in the business world and life. Success is achieved by honing talents through hard work and perseverance. Female athletes that compete at the University of South Carolina on the SEC level understand the value of this formula. They have achieved the opportunity to compete at the highest level of Division I athletics in earning a full athletic scholarship. These athletes understand that they can choose to be successful in all areas of their lives. The objective of the "Women Helping Women Achieve" program is to provide role models or mentors to the female athletes at USC. A mentoring relationship will expose our athletes to the real world and will teach them to apply the life skills that they have learned in athletics to their professional lives.

The female athletes at South Carolina are focused on the process of achieving their high athletic goals. They get up early in the morning to work

## THE MENTORING PROGRAM

on their weaknesses and understand what it means to make sacrifices. They believe in the value of outworking their opponents and know it's the only way for them to have success. They also know that achievement is not only measured in wins and losses but in giving your absolute best. They know not to quit when things aren't going as planned but have learned to adjust the plan, work harder and find a way to achieve. They understand the value of communication and teamwork. The female athletes at South Carolina are winners, great people and good students.

The formula for success in and outside of the athletics arena requires a goal and a plan. The exceptional young women at USC need guidance to help in identifying their career goals and in formulating a plan to achieve these goals. Mentoring provides that guidance.

The mentoring relationship allows the athletes to witness first hand women in professional leadership roles and

the social norms and mores of professional women in the workplace. Such relationships will help to decrease the gap between students and their prospective working environments. The relationship should expose students to people, places and things in which they may otherwise not have been aware.

The athletes at USC are quite visible in the community and participate in numerous public service projects. They are excellent role models to the children in the Columbia community and are frequently involved in outreach activities. The mentoring impact on them will trickle down to others.



MARGARET BASS Economic Development SCANA/retired

"The 2002 was my first year to be a mentor for Mariana Branquinho. I feel I received more from her than she has from me. When she shared her strong family values, we had an immediate connection. It was nice to have her come into our home and it has been especially great to have someone special to support during volleyball games."



LIZ CRUM Attorney McNair Law Firm

"The mentoring program provides both mentors and student-athletes the opportunity to learn from each other, meet new people and to network. The mentors share work and life opportunities and experiences and the student-athletes share athletics and college life. The program has been great for USC and the community."



FRANNIE HEIZER Attorney - McNair Law Firm City Council Member

"The mentoring program has enjoyed great success and is mutually beneficial to the mentors and the students. I look forward to continuing to develop relationships with the student-athletes and other mentors."



JAN MIDDLEBROOKS Financial Consultant Merrill Lynch

"Mentoring is a win-win situation. Successful student-athletes meet successful women. This results in committed fans and adds Real Life 101 to the educational process."





Joan Assey, Ed.D. Jan Baker Margaret Bass

Karen Baxley Cheryl Behymer **Betty Best** 

Camille Bradford-Hugg Sandra Bryan Phyllis Burkhard Janet Butcher Nikki Cantey Mary Choate Lee Coggiola Sally Crane Liz Crum Jenny Dalrymple Ashley Dando

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Anne Walker Jackie Weedon Laurie Whitcomb, P.T., A.T.C

Dawn White Mze Wilkins Deborah Yoho

Pat Votava

Director of Court Technology

Attorney

**Economic Development** Clinical Nurse Specialist

Attorney

Financial Planning Mgr. Community Affairs Director Executive Assistant to CEO **Director of Career Services** 

Attorney Attorney Administrator Attorney

Office Mgr/Business Dev

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