Diversity and Inclusion Chair Report 2016 Spring HOD Meeting

The Western Zone Diversity and Inclusion Camp will be held June 16-19 at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. The camp is held every two years and each LSC may send two athletes ages 13-16 along with a coach, the LSC diversity and inclusion chair, and additional diversity summit participants. For the first time, Montana Swimming will be represented at the camp. AJ Popp, KATS, will attend as an athlete and he mom, Toni Popp, will attend as a diversity summit participant. Only one athlete and no coaches applied to attend the camp. Depending upon my travel plans I may also attend the camp as the LSC diversity and inclusion chair. The camp features a national coach and three assistant coaches plus a national athlete. There will be forty athletes at the camp from across the Western Zone. The athletes will have pool time as well as class time and will participate in an outreach activity. Plus great food, several social activities, and making lasting friends and memories will make the camp a special activity for all the participants. Montana Swimming pays the $240 per person registration fee and up to $300 per person for travel for those attending the camp this year.

The Montana Swimming website features a tab for diversity and inclusion as well as disability swimming. Numerous resources can be found there.

Montana Swimming updated the athlete outreach membership policy in October. Information about the policy and more can be found on the website.

As a member of the Western Zone Diversity and Inclusion committee and the Western Zone Diversity and Inclusion camp committee I have been busy working with the committee members to develop the camp and other diversity and inclusion activities and resources. Information is posted on the Western Zone website. The committee has been discussing outreach membership eligibility criteria, and I head a task force researching this topic. USA Swimming is looking for other criteria to qualify for the outreach membership besides qualifying for the free or reduced federal hot lunch program. The task force compiled data and forwarded that to the national diversity and inclusion committee who is working with the national membership and registration committee on the issue. One idea already under consideration by the national committee is offering an outreach membership for officials. The WZ task force is also compiling information on meet entry fee waivers for outreach members.

If you have question about diversity and inclusion please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Huckeby