

## Western Zone Diversity and Inclusion Select Camp and Summit

June 14-17 of 2018 I was able to attend the Western Zone Diversity and Inclusion Select Camp and Summit. I attended with Susan Huckeby, our Diversity and Inclusion Chair, and 3 athletes, Sara Guillen BOZ, Bennett Apostol BY, and O'Shay Birdinground BY.

This was an outstanding opportunity for our athletes to connect with coaches and other athletes from across our Western Zone. It was fun to watch them make connections and build friendships. This was also a great opportunity for me as a coach to meet athletes, diversity and inclusion chairs, officials and other coaches from our zone and beyond. I was fortunate enough to reconnect with many I met during the summit at the AG Zones Meet later in the summer. The camp coaching staff was a fun and dynamic group from all over the nation! They brought varied backgrounds, experience and perspectives not only to the athletes, but to those attending the summit as well.

The D&I summit was an eye-opening experience. Until attending, I was completely unaware of the projects, marketing, and development the LSCs of our zone are undertaking to make diversity and inclusion an integral part of USA Swimming in our areas. I was able to attend meetings that discussed the nuts and bolts of D&I within each LSC. Some LSCs are doing so very much to promote Diversity and Inclusion, while others are just getting started. I think the most important thing I learned from those meetings is that we have come a long way, but there is still a very long way to go.

As a coach rather than a D&I Chair attending the summit, I found myself wishing that we could have had more time discussing current D&I issues with the other coaches. I am hopeful that in future summits a more practical rather than philosophical approach will be taken with the coach portion of the summit. I think there is great value in think tank discussions among such a varied and diverse group of coaches!!

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to attend this camp and summit! I look forward to seeing our D&I mission grow and evolve within our LSC!

Kristen Wyatt  
Head Coach Billings YMCA