



ShePower 2018 She Educates Award Honoree

Deputy Athletic Director Dena Freeman-Patton

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California State University, Bakersfield
www.GoRunners.com

Dena Freeman-Patton serves as Deputy Athletics Director at California State University, Bakersfield. With over 20 years of collegiate athletic administration experience, she serves as second in command for the department and is the sport administrator for women's basketball, men's soccer, softball and men's and women's swimming and diving. Freeman-Patton also oversees the areas of academic support, sports medicine, strength and conditioning and life skills. She serves on the Roadrunner Scholarship Fund Board of Directors and launched and oversees the first ever Runner Varsity Club at CSUB.

Under her leadership, CSUB has enhanced all areas of academic support and development for student-athletes. Under Freeman-Patton's leadership, CSUB Athletics increased its departmental GPA from 2.87 to 3.06 in just two short years. Since then CSUB student-athletes have maintained a 3.0 or above GPA for six consecutive terms. In addition, CSUB has increased its student-athlete graduation success rate from 60% to 75%. CSUB has continued to enhance the services provided to its student-athletes with the assistance of the NCAA Accelerating Academic Success Program. Freeman-Patton led the efforts to secure this \$870,000 grant. This led to the opening of the new Kegley Center for Student Success, \$1 million renovated facility to support academic success at CSUB.

Prior to CSUB, Freeman-Patton served on the department's senior staff and was the sport supervisor for women's soccer at Georgia State University (2007-2013). Georgia State student-athletes were successful in the classroom under Freeman-Patton's leadership, earning at least a 3.0 grade-point average for 12 consecutive semesters, and had the highest Graduation Success Rate in the Sun Belt Conference. Student-Athletes at Georgia State also completed a minimum of 5,000 community service hours around Atlanta for four straight years.

She also held positions at North Carolina State University (2002-2005) and the University of Maryland, College Park (2005-2007).

Freeman-Patton was recently elected to the NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee (MOIC) and to the Minority Opportunities Athletics Association (MOAA) Board of Directors. She is also a member of Women Leaders in College Sports, a 2011 graduate of the NACWAA Institute for Administrative Advancement and 2017 graduate of the Women Leaders Executive Institute. Freeman-Patton previously served on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics and currently serves as an instructor and board of advisors for the Emerging Administrators Academy.

Freeman-Patton lettered in basketball at Liberty University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in sports management in 1996. She added a master's in sports administration from Georgia State in 1999.

The Baltimore, Md., native and Lake Clifton High School Alumna has a son, Cameron and is a member of The Bakersfield Chapter Links, Inc.



www.ShePowerAcademy.org