



Princeton University
DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Ward named Associate Director of Athletics for Campus Recreation

Mollie Marcoux Samaan, the Ford Family Director of Athletics at Princeton University, has named Jessica Ward as the new Associate Director of Athletics for Campus Recreation, effective July 25, 2017. Ward had been serving in an interim capacity in the position since March.

Ward's responsibilities include providing strategic leadership, supervision and management of campus recreation facilities and programs, including intramural sports, club sports, summer camp, outdoor programs, aquatics and all fitness programming, including group exercise and the Stephens Fitness Center. She will play a central role in collaborating with campus partners in the furtherance of Princeton initiatives and the development of creative programs and services that benefit the entire University community.



"Jess has been a star member of the Campus Recreation Department and the Athletic Department as a whole for the past nine years, and I'm thrilled that she has agreed to assume this very important leadership role," Marcoux Samaan said. "After an exhaustive national search, Jess emerged as the very best candidate for the job due to both her expertise in the field of campus recreation and her passion and enthusiasm for improving the Princeton community. She is an excellent collaborator, a creative and dynamic leader and most importantly a dedicated educator. We look forward to continuing to expand the positive impact that campus recreation can have on our students, faculty, staff and the larger Princeton community."

As an Associate Director of Athletics, she will also continue to serve as a member of the Department of Athletics leadership team.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to serve in this new role," said Ward. "During the past nine years, I have developed strong relationships with my students and other administrators across campus. I plan to use these relationships and my experience to become an ambassador for health and wellness across the University. Our goal in Campus Recreation is to make sure that Dillon Gym is an inclusive and welcoming environment to every student or patron who comes in. My goal is to evaluate our program offerings and facility spaces to better support our mission of improving the quality of life on campus and strengthen the ties within our community. I am thankful for this opportunity and look forward to the challenges ahead."

Ward began her career in campus recreation at Princeton in 2008 as the Assistant Director of Campus Recreation for Intramurals before being promoted in 2012 to the Assistant Director of Campus Recreation for Programming. Prior to coming to Princeton, Ward held positions at Rutgers, Indiana State University and the Monmouth County Park System.

Ward received a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and a master's degree from Indiana State. She currently serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Exercise Science Department at Georgian Court University.

Ward and her husband, Bob, have two sons, Jason and Johnny.