



MOAA | CORNER

FEEDING A PIPELINE

I have been given the honor to pen an article within the *Athletics Administration* magazine for the MOAA Corner. An honor I don't take lightly, especially based on the number of readers of the magazine, it's an opportunity most young professionals dream of having. My name is Marlon Furlongue, sports information director at Warner University in Lake Wales, Fla. I am a member of MOAA and a young professional in the beginning stages of my career in athletics. I tell you this because this is exactly the mission of MOAA; assisting aspiring professionals from all walks of life. MOAA provides opportunities to exchange ideas and advocate increased participation and administrative opportunities for minorities in athletics. The Association also promotes generating a sports culture that supports the values necessary to teach and learn respect for self and others. It is guided by six principals that promote diversity and integrity, and encourage members to serve as community outreach agents who promote moral, ethical and educational values and address the needs of minorities professionally, emotionally, financially and physically in athletics.



Marlon Furlongue



Since its inception in 2000, MOAA has promoted equitable employment opportunities for minorities in the athletics industry. The association partnered with NACDA in 2006 which has produced an increase in membership and has allowed the association to further these ideals and reach a larger audience. Many organizations are looking to create a pipeline to increase minority representation within athletics.

In this vine, MOAA would like to invite its members and invited guests to attend a reception on Thursday, January 14 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. There you will learn more about the association and, if you are already a member, get involved in the committee structure. Sean T. Frazier, senior associate athletics director at the University of Wisconsin, is excited about building a strong pipeline of professionals.

"This is a great time to jump start your career," stated Frazier. "MOAA has been in a leadership role in many different initiatives that have advanced and promoted a shared agenda for minorities trying to seek careers in athletics administration, the time for you to act is now!"

MOAA would like to see more representation from all levels and divisions of athletics and a more diverse representation. The membership reception is not limited to only the top administrators; representation at every level in athletics is needed to form a well-rounded organization, from the athletics directors to the interns, graduate assistants and entry level professionals. In fact, the entry level professionals are the beginning stages of our pipeline and are important to the continued growth of the Association. MOAA can provide the support and guidance needed to young/new professionals trying to get ahead.

"MOAA will play a very important role in the development and advancement of minorities in the world of intercollegiate athletics," said Ed Manzanares, athletics director at New Mexico Highlands University. "The voice that MOAA provides will continue the growth of diversity in intercollegiate athletics and give minority groups of student-athletes an avenue of motivation by seeing people who share their ethnicity working at an administrative level."

During the reception, attendees will have a chance to meet and exchange ideas with some of our returning board members and newly appointed board members. The MOAA board of directors is a diverse group of experienced professionals carrying forward the mission and passion of athletics representing all divisions.

The reception, along with the many other member benefits, will provide great opportunities for networking and to meet seasoned veterans in athletics administration that are more than willing to give a helping hand to navigate through this industry. There is the MOAA listserv where you can interact with individual members, exchange ideas or seek input and also be apprised of employment opportunities within the field.

"As the Chair of the McLendon Scholarship Steering Committee, I've seen first-hand the difference MOAA has made in the lives of several young men and women within intercollegiate athletics," stated Keith Tribble, director of athletics at the University of Central Florida. "Being a part of MOAA is a great step forward in your respective careers. The wide variety of programs and initiatives that MOAA provides to minority athletics administrators is an invaluable resource."

The cliché "the more the merrier," is what we believe, for the reason that the more representation from different groups the greater the Association becomes. We can take a look at the Black Coaches and Administrators Association as an example. That association is stronger than ever now due to their strength in numbers. They have representation from Division I to Division III, males, females, African-Americans and Latino-Americans. Because of this, they have a strong voice in athletics.

In addition to the aforementioned reception at the NCAA Convention, the MOAA Symposium will be held in Anaheim, Calif. June 21-22, and every year something ground-breaking happens. I know you might be saying to yourself, in this economy how am I to fund a trip to Anaheim, especially with so many budget cuts going around? Do not fret. If you work for a Division II or Division III institution, there are grants available that will help to offset the expenses for the 2010 Symposium. So there is no excuse and there is no time like the present to join!

Thanks for this article to former NACDA Intern Marlon Furlongue, sports information director at Warner University.