Texas A&M Coaching Academy - Dr. John Thornton

Howdy,

Since my retirement I have been working to establish the Texas A&M Coaching Academy sponsored by the Huffines Institute, the Department of Health and Kinesiology, and the College of Education and Human Development. It has been rewarding as we have started to prepare students and student-athletes on campus for careers in coaching. We are also working on setting up resources for those Aggies that are venturing out into coaching and those that are already out there working as coaches. Partnering with the Lettermen's Association presents many opportunities for the Coaching Academy: seminars, clinics, networking and job boards to name just a few potential initiatives. Our founding premise has been that there are many routes to coaching and we want to be able to help identify and support the pathway that is right for individuals seeking careers and options in coaching and youth development.

We have accomplished much in establishing the Coaching Academy framework and are really fired up about our initial accomplishments, but we are really excited about the potential of the Academy. While I have attached a flier to provide a glimpse of what we are up to, below is a short list of undertakings:

- Founded Advisory Council (support network of on campus partners)
- Established framework for teaching alternative certification
- Established points of contact for job placement in regional ISD's
- Established first cohort of "Certified" coaches through the Coaching Academy
- Explored continued education for coaches through online offerings
- Offered KINE 489 5 different semesters "Best Practices in Coaching and Athletic Administration" (one third of those taking class have been student-athletes)

I have also identified some web sites that can give you an idea what we have done and where we are going.

- **Texas A&M Coaching Academy and Huffines Institute** - website
- **Profile in Foundation "Spirit" Magazine** - website

- **Partnership with Spring Branch ISD Tahperd presentation - website**

I am looking forward to the future and would love your input and support should this effort interest you. Together, we can make the future better for Aggies that want to coach.

Gig 'em,

John H Thornton, PhD
Executive Professor

Director of TAMU Coaching Academy, Sydney and JL Huffines Institute for Sports Medicine and Human Performance Texas A&M University Dept. of Health and Kinesiology
356 Blocker MS – 4243 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-4243

979-862-8574 (v)
979-847-8987 (f)
jhthornton@hlkn.tamu.edu

HuffinesInstitute.org