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OLYMPIANS JOIN CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS STAFF

(CHICAGO) - As international attention begins to focus on the XXI Winter Olympiad in Vancouver next month, Chicago State University (CSU) has added its own Olympic talent to the administrative and coaching staff of the University’s Athletics Department. Former Olympians Bob Beamon and Diana Muhammad were recently added to the CSU roster.

Athletic Director, Sudie Davis, envisions a new department with the addition of these individuals. “These additions will help redefine the CSU Athletics Department in efforts to strengthen the athletics intercollegiate program, to heighten the competitive ability of the athletes for greater achievement in the NCAA Division I and the Great West Conference and continue to promote outstanding academic success,” said Davis.

Beamon, who holds the Olympic long-jump record for the longest jump in history, was appointed the University’s associate athletic director last fall. Following his international track career, Beamon became involved in promoting youth athleticism by forming, with Arnold Schwarzenegger, now Governor of California, the South Florida Inner-City Games and the Bob Beamon United Way Golf Classic. His current appointment marks his second foray into collegiate athletics as he once served as the director of athletic development at Florida Atlantic University.

"It is a great honor for me to be a part of the Chicago State University Athletics Department and working with [Director] Davis in this capacity as an administrator," Beamon noted in a statement, adding, "I am willing to help take the Department to new heights in terms of being very competitive at the NCAA Division I level."
Muhammad, a Chicago native, comes to CSU as the head coach for the women’s track and field and cross country teams after completing a stellar international track career during which she competed primarily in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes in addition to the 4-by-100 meter relay. She was named to the U.S. Olympic team in 1980 and 1984. She captured a pair of gold medals in 1987 as she won the 100-meter at the U.S. Outdoor Track and Field Championships and was a member of the 4-by-100 relay team that finished first at the International Association of Athletics Associations Federation Championships.

"I appreciate the opportunity," Muhammad said, “to work for the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics at Chicago State University; and I intend on utilizing my skills and Olympic expertise in the growth and development of the CSU women’s cross country and track teams.”

Muhammad recently served as a head coach for the 20th Ward as part of the Friends of Track & Field, World Sport Chicago and Chicago2016 track program last summer in addition to serving as a coach for the University of Chicago Track Club from 1991-93. She is also an accomplished author as her autobiography “True To Me” is currently in bookstores nationwide.