

# Coach for College

D U K E U N I V E R S I T Y

A Global Initiative to Promote Higher Education Through Sports

## STAKEHOLDER TESTIMONIALS



"Coach for College is an outstanding program and fills a critical niche. At one and the same time it affords student-athletes with international civic engagement opportunities which their athletic obligations too often prevent them from having and it provides opportunities for middle schoolers in underdeveloped countries (so far, Vietnam) to learn fundamental intellectual and life skills through sports. Duke is proud to be the founding University for such a program."

Peter Lange, Provost, Duke University

"I support Coach for College because of the opportunities it provides student athletes for meaningful public service in an underdeveloped country. This helps to address one of the root problems that many of us see in major athletic programs today - their separation and isolation from the life and experience of the typical student. Student-athletes, because of their heavy schedule commitments, have almost no opportunity for major public service endeavors or for study abroad. When you read the individual testimonies of the students who have had this experience, you cannot help but be impressed with the impact of this program on their lives. Moreover, I think this program is making a real difference in the lives of Vietnamese children, who are being given a ray of hope where they had none. This program has enormous potential for scalability to a national level, an international Teach for America for student athletes."

James Moeser  
Chancellor Emeritus, UNC-Chapel Hill



“Coach for College focuses on helping young people in a challenged nation to remain in school and develop dreams of completing college, and on helping American athletes not only gain access to an experience of living abroad, but also in doing something that truly will make a difference. Parker has developed a solid, carefully organized program that makes use of our student-athletes’ talents and gifts and works with the real needs of the community they are serving. We think this unique program provides Division I athletes with a meaningful opportunity to combine an undergraduate abroad experience, with authentic service-learning. In our global world, making it possible for elite college athletes to have such an experience is allowing them to experience life and culture outside the U.S., something that has been extremely difficult to do given the rigorous demands of competing at the Division I level in college athletics.”

Donna Shalala  
President, University of Miami  
Former Secretary of Health & Human Services



“The opportunity to study abroad and engage in international experiences are currently limited for athletes due to athletes’ participation schedules. The Coach for College program structure recognizes those limitations and provides a focused opportunity for athletes during the summer term when their schedules have greater flexibility. A unique aspect of the program is that it brings rival schools/athletes together for a common purpose. Coach for College provides college athletes an opportunity for an international experience in civic engagement, and helps rural Vietnamese youth improve their educational outcomes by learning advanced academic material in the context of sports from older role models.”

Amy Perko  
Executive Director  
Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics



“Coach for College is a powerful program. It gives student-athletes, who otherwise find it nearly impossible to participate in international programs while a college student, an opportunity to make a difference in children’s lives in Vietnam. Our students are our strongest voices in praising their experience with the program. They experience the culture and people in a depth and life-changing fashion that few study abroad programs can offer.”

J. Milton Adams  
Vice Provost for Academic Programs, UVA



“This program is providing a very valuable service with an athletics, educational and international dimension. Coach for College teaches under-represented school-age students in Vietnam the benefits of sports within an educational infrastructure. Coach for College has enlisted the help of American student-athletes as teachers/instructors, tutors, mentors, and role models to expose Vietnamese youth to basketball, tennis, and soccer through education. The program develops life skills and goal setting using sports-themed learning criteria to foster engagement in core academic subjects like Biology, Physics, and English. Coach for College is a relevant, inspiring and cutting edge program that provides invaluable leadership development opportunities for student-athletes and youth. The program has made tremendous progress and is gaining momentum with the support of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), the Commissioner John Swofford, and the Council of ACC presidents and chancellors.”

Robert Vowels  
Vice President for Educational Affairs, NCAA



“As someone who has worked in college athletics for 30 years, I am especially appreciative of the benefit of Coach for College for student-athletes. Heightened interest and increased revenue have helped to create an environment in which it has become increasingly difficult for NCAA Division I student-athletes to participate in other extra-curricular activities or to travel or study abroad, even in the summer. Parker’s program, however, is designed to circumvent this difficulty by requiring a commitment of only three weeks from any one individual. We have always valued service as an important component of the Duke education and Parker’s program provides an excellent opportunity for our student-athletes.”

Chris Kennedy  
Senior Associate Athletics Director, Duke University



“The program addresses important needs in the college student-athlete population, a group with whom I have worked for over 20 years. The commitment that these students make to athletics limits their college experience and prohibits them from taking advantage of many opportunities that our colleges and universities offer. Most concerning to me over the years has been the virtual elimination of the study abroad experience for student-athletes. Additionally, their time commitment to their sports has also limited their ability to be involved in sustained civic engagement experiences. The Coach for College program addresses these voids in the college student-athlete’s experience in a wonderful way. Coach for College is also being developed in a manner that is fostering cross- and intra-university communication and collaboration that is healthy for our institutions of higher education and promises to foster more of such collaboration in the future.”

John Blanchard  
Senior Associate Athletics Director, UNC





I have been following the development of the “Coach for College” program since its inception and believe the program to be highly effective on multiple levels. First, it is targeting the right population. Hau Giang province is one of the poorest in Vietnam. The province faces a host of legacy issues, including one of the lowest average levels of educational attainment in the nation. By instilling a desire for higher education while imparting the skills needed to succeed in school, this program perfectly matches with the province’s own initiatives to improve the quality of education. By emphasizing direct people-to-people exchange with rural areas, the program is pushing America’s “footprint” in Vietnam beyond the capital and major cities. I met with the “Governor” of Hau Giang province, People’s Committee Chairman Huynh Minh Chac, who expressed both his appreciation for what the program has accomplished thus far, and his strong desire to see it expanded to additional poor rural areas. During a meeting the previous day with the Rector of Can Tho University, he likewise expressed his hope that program would continue its track record of promoting rural education, academic exchange and innovative new teaching methods. Having the personal support of top officials such as these is both a positive reflection of the good work accomplished to date, as well as a good indication that the program has the local support to continue that track record in the future.”

Kenneth J. Fairfax  
U.S. Consul General for Vietnam, 2007-2010



“Hau Giang Province Education and Training Department is willing to continue to participate, support, collaborate and give whatever is necessary in order to implement the Coach for College program because of the reasons below: The program’s goals are in conformity with the physical education goals of the Vietnamese Education and Training Ministry in general and the sports activities have increased inside Hau Giang high school system as well. Cultural exchange, useful entertainment, life skills training and team activities...which are presented in the program are one of the contents of the [MoET] campaign called “form active schools and students”. The teachers who participate in the program have more opportunities to practice their teaching methodologies and skills. Students are able to learn about culture, sports and useful entertainment activities, especially in the rural areas where it is very hard to celebrate these kinds of activities. The schools that participate in the program are able to have many benefits.”

Nguyen Hung Nhien  
Deputy Director  
Hau Giang Province Dep. of Education and Training



I've been impressed to watch Parker Goyer build Coach for College. She demonstrates daily the vision, dedication, perseverance, resourcefulness, and constant reflection and improvement that I've found to be the foundation for successful social entrepreneurship. I look forward to watching Coach for College thrive and grow as a program that expands the opportunities available to underserved children while shaping the values, leadership, and career trajectories of college athletes."

Wendy Kopp  
Founder and CEO  
Teach for America

Coach for College is an initiative that aims to build bridges between collegiate youth and youth in nations all over the world through sports and education. While participating in this program, collegiate athletes become effective international ambassadors as they represent the American dream and communicate the values and ideals that make our democracy great.

Condoleezza Rice  
U.S. Secretary of State, 2005-2009



My predecessor, Chancellor James Moeser, was an early supporter of Coach for College and his confidence is well-placed. Coach for College has broken through many barriers - language barriers, athletic rivalries, and cultural misunderstandings. Through it all, they have focused on rigorous assessment, which will ensure growth and an improved experience for years to come. UNC student-athletes have been participants since its inception in 2008, and we believe that expanding the program to additional universities is an important next step...

Holden Thorp  
Chancellor, UNC-Chapel Hill





East Meets West has found our partnership with Coach for College in Vietnam to be rewarding and valuable for the students, and exciting as a new model of how to engage students in developing the skills they need for their future. Deploying athletes from the US to bring a combination of sports discipline and life skills training is a wonderful idea and something new in Vietnam. We only wish it were ten times as big.

John Anner  
President  
East Meets West Foundation



Virginia Tech is honored to be among the innovative ACC institutions supporting the Coach for College program. Through teaching and coaching at-risk youth abroad, our student-athletes receive empowering benefits while simultaneously developing their own servant leadership skills. Collaborations with host countries increase commitments to positive social change and provide important international engagement opportunities that are not usually available to student-athletes. Coach for College is truly a unique experience and we are excited by the program's potential to expand to other developing countries.

Mark G. McNamee  
Senior Vice President and Provost  
Virginia Tech

