



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Grace Erkeneff Named 2026 Swim Across America Scholarship Recipient for ASCA World Clinic

The American Swimming Coaches Association (ASCA) is proud to announce that **Grace Erkeneff**, Head Coach of the Vacaville Swim Club, has been selected as the recipient of the **2026 Swim Across America Scholarship**, earning the opportunity to attend the ASCA World Clinic in Orlando.

Grace brings a remarkable depth of experience to the pool deck, with nearly two decades of coaching across multiple levels of the sport. Her background includes roles as a Head Coach, Head Age Group Coach, Assistant Coach, Masters Coach, high school head coach, summer league coach, and swim instructor. This breadth of experience has shaped a coaching philosophy grounded in consistency, athlete development, and community impact.

Now entering her third year as Head Coach of Vacaville Swim Club, Grace has already made a transformative impact. When she stepped into the role, the program faced significant challenges—frequent coaching turnover, lack of cohesion, and declining athlete engagement. Through steady leadership and a commitment to building a positive, inclusive environment, she has helped stabilize and rebuild the team. Today, her swimmers are thriving both in and out of the water, with many developing a deeper connection to the sport and even giving back as lifeguards and aspiring coaches.

Grace's professional goals extend beyond performance. She is deeply committed to promoting water safety and increasing access to aquatics within her community. As a parent of two young children, she views swimming as an essential life skill and advocates for greater awareness around its importance for individuals of all ages.

Her leadership reflects a clear belief: that consistency in coaching, strong team culture, and an inclusive environment are key to both athlete retention and long-term success. In a community where other sports often dominate, Grace continues to champion swimming as a fun, rewarding, and life-changing pursuit.

The Swim Across America Scholarship supports coaches who demonstrate passion, leadership, and a commitment to advancing the sport of swimming. Grace exemplifies these qualities, and ASCA is excited to support her continued growth and learning at the 2026 World Clinic.

Congratulations to Grace Erkeneff on this well-deserved honor.

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