

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mary Thomson joins Cougars as assistant coach for women's volleyball

BRANDON, Man. (April 10, 2018) — The Assiniboine Cougars women's volleyball team is excited to announce that Mary Thomson, formerly the setter of the Brandon University Bobcats team, has come on board as the assistant coach for women's volleyball program during the 2018-19 season. She will coach alongside Jeff Maxwell, the head coach for the women's team.

A product of Brandon, Man., Thomson completed her eligibility this season with the Brandon University Bobcats and was recognized as one of the top setters in the country during her USports career. She was named a second-team all star for the Canada West Conference and is Brandon University's Outstanding Female Athlete for 2017-18.

Thomson brings a wide variety of playing and coaching experience at the high school, provincial, university, and international level to the Cougars coaching staff. She competed in the U18 Norceca Championships for the junior national team at the age of 15 and competed in the Western Canada games where they finished with a silver medal. Thomson was also a Canada Games bronze medalist in 2013.

Thomson has coached for a number of years across Westman in the girls and boys club volleyball categories. She was head coach of the girls' volleyball team for the Westman region that competed in the 2016 Power Smart Manitoba Summer Games.

"I am extremely excited about joining the Cougars coaching staff. I have seen the development of the team and program over the last year and believe they are in the right direction for success," says Thomson. "I have known Coach Maxwell for a number of years and have always admired his coaching style, technique, and passion for the sport of volleyball. I'm excited to learn, gain more coaching experience, and be apart of the program for the upcoming season".

"We are excited about Mary joining our coaching staff," says Maxwell. "I feel her playing experience will help develop our setters to the next level. Her coaching experience will be an asset to myself and all the players on the team".

Thomson is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Education After Degree program at Brandon University and looks forward to the challenge of coaching at the college level for the upcoming season.

About Assiniboine Athletics

Cougars teams in men's and women's volleyball, men's and women's soccer, and futsal (a variation of indoor soccer) compete in the Manitoba Colleges Athletic Conference (MCAC). The women's hockey team will play their first year as full time members in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) this season (2017-18).

About Assiniboine Community College

Assiniboine Community College has been providing exceptional learning experiences for over 55 years. For staff and students alike, Assiniboine offers unparalleled learning environments and responds well to the demands and requirements of the Manitoba labour market. Instructors follow the philosophy of 'learn by doing', combining theory with hands-on learning inside classrooms, labs, kitchens, shops, fields and the college's Sustainable Greenhouse.

Assiniboine offers more than 40 diploma and certificate programs across a variety of disciplines including culinary arts and hospitality, business, agriculture and environment, health and human services, trades and technology. The college also delivers apprenticeship programming in a range of skilled trades disciplines.

The college welcomed more than 3,600 full-time and 6,000 part-time students last year. With campuses in Brandon, Dauphin and Winnipeg, Assiniboine provides comprehensive education opportunities throughout Manitoba. The college also partners with many communities and organizations across the province to deliver customized education and training.

Assiniboine's annual provincial economic impact is \$613 million.

For more information, please contact:

Jeff Maxwell
Women's Volleyball Head Coach
Assiniboine Community College
Maxwellj2@assiniboine.net
204.720.8637

or

Alanna Simpson
Athletics Manager
Assiniboine Community College
cougars@assiniboine.net
204.725.8700 ext 6340