

YWCA of Westmoreland County News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IUP Coach and two time Olympian will be Keynote speaker for April 10 YWCA of Westmoreland County Sportswomen Award Banquet

GREENSBURG, Pennsylvania –Two time Olympian and IUP Women’s Track and Field Coach Michelle Burgher-Duncan will be the keynote speaker at the April 10 YWCA of Westmoreland County Sportswomen Awards Banquet. Burger-Duncan will address an audience that will include 11 female athletes and 2 teams who will be honored for achievement in women’s sports and contributions to sports and fitness programs in Westmoreland County.

Michelle, a 2000 and 2004 Olympic Games medalist, entered her fourth season as the head coach of the IUP women’s track & field team in 2017-18. Previously she served as the head coach for both the men’s and women’s track & field teams from 2011-14 and as an assistant coach from 2008-11.

Michelle came to IUP in 2008 from Williams College, where she served as an assistant track & field coach from 2001-2004.

After transferring from George Mason to Clemson in 1999, she became part of the NCAA championship team in the 4x400 meter relay. At the time of graduation, Michelle and the relay team held the record for the Outdoor 4x400 meter relay at Clemson. Michelle was a five-time All-American, and has been inducted into the Clemson Athletic Hall of Fame, as a member of the 2013 induction class.

Michelle earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Clemson in 2001 and was the treasurer of the African and Caribbean Student Association.

She competed for the Jamaican National Track & Field team, claiming a silver medal in the 4x400 meter relay at the 2000 Sydney Games and a bronze medal at the 2004 Athens Games in the same event.

Her 4x400 meter relay team won the gold medal at the 2001 world championships in Edmonton and the bronze medal in Paris two years later. Her team claimed the silver medal at the 2003 Pan-American Games.

Individually, Michelle won the 400 meter at the 2003 Central American and Caribbean Games. She was a finalist at the 2003 Pan-Am Games and qualified for the 2004 World Indoor Championships.

She received the 2005 Goodwill Ambassador award from Team Jamaica Bickle in New York and the 2004 Outstanding Olympic Achievement award from the Jamaica Career as Sports Foundation and the Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce.

At IUP, Michelle has developed and maintained success since becoming the head coach of the women's team in 2014. The women's team finished in the top half of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Championships seven times, in both the indoor and outdoor championships. The women's track & field team has four overall finishes in the top five.

The mission of the YWCA of Westmoreland County is to eliminate racism and empower women. For details about the YWCA and further information about the Women's Sports Awards Program and for tickets, contact the YWCA of Westmoreland County at 724-834-9390 or visit the website at www.YWCAWestmoreland.org

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Photo attached in email