

# ABOUT DIANE MAISE



## LIFE & CAREER

Diane Maise has been a trailblazer for Diversity and Inclusion in Diving for more than three decades. As the first, and as of yet, only Black female to win an NCAA Championship and be named a four-time, all-American, she became came up in the sport in an environment that had a stark lack of diversity. Diane went on to be the first Black NCAA coach at a Division I diving program, coaching at the University of Denver, LaSalle University, and the University of Richmond. While at LaSalle, she was named Atlantic 10 Diving Coach of the Year five times and coached the school's first NCAA qualifier. Recently, became the first Black FINA-certified judge from the U.S.

Diane's goal is to change the landscape of the sport she loves and is motivated by finding new ways to provide accessibility to diving for everyone. She is currently is the CEO of Dive RVA, a 501(c)(3) organization focused on growing the sport of diving and making it accessible to the entire Greater Richmond Community, and is working to raise funds to create a full aquatics center in Richmond that will enable athletes of all socioeconomic backgrounds to have access to aquatic sports.

Along with her work with Dive RVA, Diane is the Chair of USA Diving's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council, the Co-Chair for Compete Sport Diversity and is currently the head diving coach at Collegiate School, St. Catherine's School, St. Christopher's School, The Steward School, and Trinity Episcopal School. In her first three years with Collegiate she was named VISAA Diving Coach of the Year. During the summer, Diane is the head diving coach at the Country Club of Virginia and works with divers from JRAC teams that do not have dive teams.

Diane travels the U.S. to speak on how the history of how the lack of accessibility in underserved communities to aquatic sports has impacted generations. Recently, she founded Dive into Diversity to give more communities the framework to give youth exposure to the sport of diving through diving exhibitions and to also provide life-saving water safety clinics.