

Potomac Valley Swimming DEI Committee

2025–2026 End of Year Summary

The Potomac Valley Swimming Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee continued its efforts throughout the 2025–2026 season to create meaningful opportunities, expand access, and promote a stronger sense of belonging within our swimming community. Through collaboration and consistent engagement, the committee focused on initiatives aimed at increasing representation and supporting athletes from historically underrepresented populations within the sport.

Throughout the year, the committee held regular meetings to guide planning efforts, review initiatives, and coordinate programming. Committee meetings were held during the following months:

- May 2025
- June 2025
- September 2025
- October 2025
- November 2025
- January 2026
- February 2026
- April 2026

These meetings centered around strategic planning, athlete outreach, camp development, educational opportunities, and creating impactful experiences that aligned with the committee’s mission and goals.

15% Initiative Select Camp – Howard University (April 18–19, 2026)

The signature event and central focus of the committee’s work this year was the **2026 PVS 15% Initiative Select Camp**, held at **Howard University** in Washington, D.C. on April 18–19, 2026. The camp represented months of planning and collaboration and served as a meaningful opportunity to create a high-level developmental experience designed specifically for athletes from communities that make up less than 15% of USA Swimming membership.

The camp welcomed **34 athletes representing 13 different clubs from across Potomac Valley Swimming**, creating a unique environment where swimmers from diverse backgrounds had the opportunity to train, learn, connect, and build community. Beyond simply bringing athletes together, the camp was intentionally designed to expose participants to opportunities for growth both inside and outside the pool through technical instruction, leadership development, mentorship, and classroom engagement.

Hosted at the historic **Howard University**, the weekend featured four in-water training sessions paired with classroom sessions focused on leadership, confidence, representation, mental health, pathways in aquatics, and personal development. The training curriculum emphasized both technical skill development and athlete ownership, reinforcing that success in swimming extends beyond race performance.

The camp was fortunate to feature outstanding coaches and mentors who invested their time and expertise into the athletes throughout the weekend. Pool session leadership included:

- Rob Green
- Amy Ibrahim
- Corey Wallace
- Dominique Banks

- Reese Samuel

Athletes also had the opportunity to hear from and interact with distinguished speakers and leaders whose experiences provided insight into the many pathways available within the sport. A special thank you goes to **Howard University Head Coach Nic Askew, Dr. Cecil Gordon, Elizabeth Jester, Emily Klueh, Hilary Perez, and Linda Tucker** who all took time out of their schedules to speak with, work directly alongside, or volunteer for the athletes and parents during the camp experience. Their involvement and mentorship added tremendous value and provided participants with a unique opportunity to learn from respected leaders in their field in relation to the sport.

Classroom sessions encouraged athletes to think beyond the lane lines and explore topics such as leadership, identity, belonging, advocacy, and future opportunities in aquatics. Discussions emphasized not only athlete development, but also the importance of representation and the many ways participants can continue shaping the future of the sport long after their competitive careers conclude.

The success of the 15% Initiative Camp reflected the mission of the DEI Committee: creating opportunities, expanding access, building community, and ensuring athletes see themselves represented throughout every level of the sport. The overwhelmingly positive athlete and family engagement throughout the weekend reinforced both the value and importance of continuing these efforts in future seasons.

The committee would like to thank all coaches, speakers, volunteers, parents, and athletes who helped make this initiative possible. Their commitment and collaboration continue to move Potomac Valley Swimming toward a stronger and more inclusive future.