

# 2024 AVCA Thirty Under 30 College



## **Kamalani Akeo**

University of Pittsburgh  
NCAA Division I  
Assistant Coach

### **Career Accomplishments to Date:**

- On the staff for three straight Final Fours and four straight Elite Eights
- Coached Rachel Fairbanks to become the program's second ACC Setter of the Year in 2023, the only one to accomplish the feat since Kamalani Akeo herself
- Helped coach Pitt to two ACC Championships
- Earned a spot on the 2023 Volleyball Magazine College Coaching Hotshots list
- Guided the Pitt offense to a top five finish with a .303 team hitting percentage in 2023, the best mark in a season during the 25-point rally scoring era (2008-present)

### **Coaching Roles:**

- University of Pittsburgh
- Volunteer Assistant - 2020
- Director of Operations - 2021-2022
- Assistant Coach - 2023-2024

### **What made you decide to get into coaching volleyball?**

Everyone has a gift, talent or purpose in life. The goal in life is to figure out what that gift is and how to share it with the world. I love the sport of volleyball and the impact it has had on my life. My goal is to inspire my players the way my coaches have inspired me. Coaching is my way of giving back to the community and sport that raised me.

### **What are your career goals in the sport?**

I want to be a head coach and run my own program in the future. In the near future though, I want to win a national championship.



**Which coaches have influenced you the most?**

It's no surprise to say that Dan Fisher has been a huge influence in my life. I have to include Kellen Petrone and Lindsey Behonick in that as well. We've known each other for 10 years now, and I wouldn't be coaching in college without them. They have helped me grow as a person and continue to help me grow in my coaching career. Lindsey was an amazing female role model to look up to. They inspired me to get into college coaching, and I wouldn't be here without them.

**What do you enjoy most about your coaching job?**

I enjoy the everyday interactions with the players, coaches and support staff. Every year is different but there are always joys and struggles that we experience together. All of the bus trips, flights, practices, team meetings and little moments in between are what make coaching so special.