



Abbi has been with CUVC for 4 seasons now. She began as a head coach and in April of last year we had the pleasure of hiring her full time as our Director of Player Development. Hayes has nine seasons of experience as a first assistant coach. She spent three years at SAC member Tusculum, where she led the Pioneers to their first-ever NCAA Tournament bid. Hayes spent three years at Division I UNC Greensboro and an additional three years at Wingate University.

Hayes became Wingate University volleyball's first full-time assistant coach in 2014, where she helped guide the Bulldogs to their ninth straight South Atlantic Conference regular season title, ninth consecutive SAC Tournament title and third straight NCAA Southeast Regional championship. Wingate collected its 10th

straight regular season conference title in 2015 while earning its 11th consecutive NCAA Tournament bid. In 2016, **Abbi** was recognized by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) with the Thirty Under 30 Award. This award was created in 2009 to honor up-and-coming coaching talent at all levels of the sport.

In all three positions she was the recruiting coordinator in addition to have numerous on-court coaching responsibilities. She was also in charge of scouting opponents and coordinating video breakdowns. In her 9 nine seasons, Hayes has earned the reputation as a hard-working recruiter and has had success in bringing in talented classes to both programs. She is also regarded as an intense and competitive coach, with the proven ability and experience to positively influence player development at every position on the court and in every aspect of team play.

While at Alabama, Hayes (then Abbi Blackburn) helped the Crimson Tide earn their first-ever NCAA Tournament bid. Alabama advanced the SEC championship match for the first time during her junior year as well, while also earning an NCAA bid during her senior season.

Hayes graduated from Alabama in 2007 with a degree in communication. Abbi and her husband **Will Hayes** were married in July of 2013 in Asheboro, N.C. He is currently the strength coach at Wingate University.