

Coach Edwards Returns to LC to Lead Softball Program

by Jan Dona, LC Communications
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GODFREY – Lewis and Clark Community College alumna Amanda Edwards has returned to her alma mater as the Trailblazers' new head softball coach, bringing a vision centered on competitive excellence, accountability and student success.

Edwards officially began her role July 1 and brings a decade of coaching experience to the Trailblazers program. A graduate of Southwestern High School, she earned an Associate of Science degree from LC before completing a bachelor's degree in education from St. Gregory's University. Most recently, she served as a middle school science teacher and head softball coach at Southwestern High School from 2016-26.

LC Athletic Director Cody Zippmann said Edwards' experience as both a coach and educator, combined with her firsthand understanding of the Trailblazer experience, made her the ideal choice to lead the softball program into its next chapter.

"We've spent the past three years strategically rebuilding Trailblazer Athletics, and we're entering an exciting phase of that effort," Zippmann said. "Amanda brings a decade of

coaching and teaching experience, along with the perspective of a Trailblazer alumna, which we value immensely. We believe she's the right leader to help elevate our softball program and continue building a championship culture across our athletic department."

As head coach, Edwards will oversee all aspects of the softball program, including recruiting, player development, academics and community engagement. She inherits a roster of 25 student-athletes as the Trailblazers prepare for the 2026-27 season.

"My work supports students by helping them grow academically, athletically and personally," Edwards said. "Every interaction is an opportunity to teach valuable life skills like accountability, discipline, resilience, communication and teamwork. I want to create an environment where student-athletes feel supported, challenged and empowered to reach their full potential."

Edwards said her passion for coaching grew after former LC women's basketball coach and Southwestern softball coach Peg Mitchell invited her to join Southwestern's coaching staff following her playing career.

"Softball has always been a part of my life," Edwards said. "Coach Mitchell was an incredible mentor who helped shape me and encouraged me to pursue coaching. I'm grateful for everything she taught me."

Returning to LC is especially meaningful for Edwards, who credits the college with helping launch her own academic and professional journey.

"I love being able to give back to a program and school that gave me the courage and support to chase my dreams," she said.

Looking ahead, Edwards hopes to establish a program known for both competitive success and a strong team culture.

"My long-term goal is to build a program that is consistently competitive, academically successful and respected for the culture it creates," she said. "I want our student-athletes to graduate, transfer successfully and leave the program as confident leaders. I hope Lewis and Clark softball becomes known for its work ethic, accountability and commitment to excellence."

Edwards was recognized as the 2025 Best of the Best Coach and is a member of the St. Ambrose School Advisory Council.

To learn more about Trailblazer Athletics, visit the website at www.trailblazers.lc.edu.