

## Mellisa Warden-At Large Candidate

**Candidate Summary:** Ms. Warden is a SUP paddler who has competed in international events as a para-athlete. She brings significant experience collaborating with a variety of field experts, working to support access to paddling by all people, and also has served as a DEI chair for a non-profit. Further, she brings tremendous experience as an equestrian competitor and instructor, giving her insight into athletic, educational, and recreational successes outside the paddling industry. She also brings 6 years of experience working in orthotics and prosthetics, making her familiar with health issues affecting not only para-athletes but also the entire paddling community.

**Resume Summary:** Mellisa Warden is a proactive and collaborative leader with over 10 years of experience in the rules side of Olympic equestrian sport, specifically in Eventing, where she has served as an official and competed at international levels in both Eventing and Va'a. She has a strong background in orthotics and prosthetics, working directly with patients as a prosthetist and orthotist, supported by extensive advanced education. As chair of the DEI Committee at California State University Dominguez Hills, Mellisa effectively guides policy development and engages in constructive dialogue, reflecting the integrity and respect valued by the ACA Board. Her dedication to transparency and governance excellence will enable her to contribute meaningfully to strategic direction, financial oversight, and the implementation of organizational goals, ensuring the continued growth and success of the ACA.

### **Why are you interested in serving on ACA's Board?**

Lifelong athlete and more recently elite SUP para-athlete. It is necessary to have individuals who represent the diversity of membership.

### **What specific knowledge, skills, abilities, and talents do you bring?**

Over 20 years coaching international and recreational level competitors in others sports. National official in Equestrian (eventing) with international experience officiating (rules specialist), Elite para athlete (IVF), USEF First chairperson of Graduate level O&P program in US- conducted DEI trainings for students and faculty MSOP- Currently in residency for orthotics and prosthetics.

### **Do you have any previous experience or are you currently serving on a non-profit Board?**

Yes- 5 years on board of therapeutic riding center

### **What do you expect from the ACA to make service on the Board personally rewarding for you?**

No expectations regarding "rewards", but looking to increase knowledge and accessibility to paddling at all levels within the US.

### **Can you describe your understanding of the ACA, roles and responsibilities?**

Yes- Working with other board members from across the US to establish best practices and policies for ACA while also expanding membership and opportunities for current members.

**Resume:** [Warden Resume](#)