

Coach Ralph Jones moves to Charlotte after serving as the head track and cross country coach for four years at California State University East Bay. Jones currently coaches athletes from various sports and grade levels here in Charlotte as well as two athletes in the Caribbean who he is preparing for the 2016 Olympics. During his time at East Bay Jones developed a men's and women's track and field program, and his teams were recognized nationally through philanthropic work across the globe, athletic and academic excellence.

A 1999 graduate of Morgan State, Jones was a standout football player, sprinter/jumper for the Bears, earning the 1996 MEAC title in the 200-meter dash and the 1997 Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America 200 title. Jones also spent two seasons at Central Arizona where he was a team captain and part of the school's first national championship in track and field. With over 15 years of coaching experience, Jones is known as a speed and movement technician and community engagement specialist. In 2012 Jones was selected by the USA track and field committee to receive a scholarship to attend the first ever USATF/IAAF Academy Course for sprints and hurdles. Jones earned his Level 3 coaching certification after completing the course, which is the highest distinction a track and field coach can earn and identifies one as a Master Coach. From 2011-2015, Jones served as the USATF Pacific Association Men's Open track and field chair.

As an assistant to Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Hall of Fame coach Neville G. Hodge at Morgan State for four years, Jones was responsible for the development of the men's and women's distance programs and assisted with sprints, relays and jumps. Jones coached Morgan State's first MEAC cross country champion in Justus David in 2009 and had runners finish first and third at championships to garner All-MEAC honors. David was also named MEAC Performer of the Year under Jones. Jones helped develop 29 NCAA regional qualifiers in track in his first two seasons as an assistant at Morgan State.

Jones served as an assistant coach at junior college powerhouse Central Arizona College in Coolidge, Ariz., from 2003-07. While with the Vaqueros, Jones helped coach the cross country and track and field teams to seven National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) national titles. During his time there, Jones groomed seven individual national champions in track and field, two individual national champions in cross country, three national championship relay teams, and had 22 student-athletes named All-Americans. Jones was also a two-time national junior college Assistant Coach of the Year in 2005 and 2007.

Jones holds USATF Level II certifications in sprints, hurdles, relays and distance running and is certified to teach USATF Level I courses. He also holds a level 5 IAAF certification. At Morgan State, Jones was an adjunct faculty member, developing and teaching a "Coaching Track and Field" course in the Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Department. In addition to coaching and teaching, Jones served as an assistant meet director at the USATF Junior Olympic track meet in 2006 and assisted the Morgan State sports information staff with the track and cross country web pages, media guides and audio blog.

Jones earned an associate's degree in recreation and parks management from Central Arizona College, a Bachelor of Science in physical education from Morgan State University a Master of Education degree in physical education from The Ohio State University.