



Welcome our new Aquatic Director **DANIELLE ABREU**



Danielle Abreu is excited to continue her work with the YMCA as it has been a part of her life since she was three.

The early years... Danielle was first introduced to the Y when her parents enrolled her at the age of three in the preschool program at Kennebec Valley YMCA. Through the Y program she was introduced to swimming, the pool and all its wonders. In the beginning she did not have much of an interest in swimming. It wasn't until she was five and in kindergarten that she started to enjoy going to swim classes. Her parents had insisted that she be able to swim the length of the pool and know safety techniques. Before long she was in love with the water. By the age of nine she was competing for the YMCA Swim team.

Competitive Swimming... She started her competitive career as a butterfly and freestyle sprinter but as she got older she became a middle distance swimmer in freestyle and backstroke. She competed at the Y States every year finals. Once she was a freshman in high school she began to swim for both the Y team and her High School team. Though she left the Y swim team her junior year to focus on academics, she still continued to cross train at the Y for her high school swim team.

YMCA Career... Her Senior year of high school she came back to swimming at the Y as an assistant coach to the local middle school team. She was always participating in Y classes and programs; in fact she attended the YMCA summer camp from age 5-16 and then became a counselor for her last 2 years of high school. Danielle is a true Y Baby. When she left for college she joined her college swim team but only for her first year and half as a part time swimmer. After some time she decided she needed to focus on her heavy course load though her love for the pool would never die. She maintained her lifeguard cert through college. A year after she graduated from college she moved to NYC and became a lifeguard at the West Side YMCA. Over the course of 8 years she became a swim teacher, swim coach, deck supervisor, co head swim coach and then aquatics supervisor. After, all the years of growth and development at the West Side YMCA she decided she needed to experience working for a different organization but found that after being away for a little over a year she really missed the YMCA, all that it stands for, how welcoming the YMCA is and that she wanted to give others the great experience, skills and memories that she had grown up with which shaped her into the person she is now. She is very excited to introduce the new swim program that is launching this September. She truly believes it will give people the safety and swimming skills that everyone should have.