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Keeping Score When It Counts: **Assessing the 2011-12 Bowl-bound College Football Teams:** **Graduation Rates Improve; Racial Gap Persists**

Orlando, FL...December 5, 2011 – Overall academic progress continued while the substantial gap between white and African-American football student-athletes remains the same from last year for the 70 Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) schools (formerly known as Division I-A schools) playing in this year's college football bowl games, according to a study released by The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida.

Richard Lapchick, director of TIDES and the primary author of the study, said, "The academic success of FBS football student-athletes continued to grow this year. The overall football student-athlete Graduation Success Rate (GSR) improved from 67 percent to 68 percent. This year, 97 percent of the schools (68 of the 70) had at least a 50 percent Graduation Success Rate for their football teams, a significant 6 percentage point increase from the 2010 study. In addition, 99 percent of the schools (69 of the 70) received a score higher than 925 on the NCAA's Academic Progress Rate (APR), the same percentage as last year."

Lapchick added, "While the study showed that the graduation rates improved for both white and African-American football student-athletes, the study also showed that the alarming gap between white and African-American football student-athletes remained virtually the same this year and persists as a major issue. Among the 70 bowl-bound teams this year, the average GSR for African-American football student-athletes is 61 percent, up from 60 percent in 2010. The average GSR for white football student-athletes went from 80 percent last year to 81 percent this year. Overall, this reflects a 20 percentage point gap, which is the same as last year. In addition, 26 percent of the bowl-bound schools (18 out of 70) graduated less than half of their African-American football student-athletes, while no schools graduated less than half of its white football student-athletes."

Lapchick noted, "It must be emphasized that African-American and white football players graduate at a higher rate than their male non-athletic peers in the student body. The graduation rate for African-American male students as a whole is only 40 percent, in comparison to the 60 percent graduation rate for white male students, according to a 2010 article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*."

Additional troubling statistics in the study are:

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Among the bowl-bound teams:

- 66 schools (94 percent) had Graduation Success Rates of 66 percent or higher for white football student-athletes, which was more than 2.6 times the number of schools with equivalent Graduation Success Rates for African-American football student-athletes (25 schools or 36 percent). Although a disturbing trend, it is a slight improvement from last year, when the number of schools with a GSR of 66 percent or higher for white football student-athletes was 2.7 times greater than for African-American student-athletes.
- While 52 of the 70 schools (74 percent) of the bowl-bound schools graduated 50 percent or higher of their African-American football student-athletes, all of the schools graduated 50 percent or higher of their white football student-athletes.
- Two schools (3 percent) graduated less than or equal to 40 percent of their African-American football student-athletes, while no school graduated less than 40 percent of its white football student-athletes. This is a 4 percentage point decrease from last year's bowl-bound teams (from 7 percent to 3 percent).

In addition, the size of the gap among some schools is alarming:

- 16 schools (23 percent) had Graduation Success Rates for African-American football student-athletes that were at least 30 percentage points lower than their rates for white football student-athletes.
- 38 schools (54 percent) had Graduation Success Rates for African-American football student-athletes that were at least 20 percentage points lower than their rates for white football student-athletes. This number of schools with this disparity level has increased from last year by 4 percentage points.

Notre Dame (7 percentage points higher) and North Carolina (23 percentage points higher) had Graduation Success Rates for African-American football student-athletes that exceeded their rates for white football student-athletes. The number of schools is down from five in the 2010-11 study.

Only Rutgers and Louisiana Tech had overall GSR rates for football student-athletes that were better than the overall student-athletes. Boise State had overall GSR rates for football student-athletes that were the same for overall student-athletes.

Lapchick said, "Notre Dame and Northwestern would have played for the National Championship if there was a national championship game for Graduation Success Rates among bowl teams. Both teams graduated at least 94 percent of all football student-athletes and at least 92 percent of African-American football student-athletes. Notre Dame graduated 100 percent of their African-American football student-athletes. Northwestern and Rutgers would contend for the National Championship if there was a national championship for APR scores, with APR scores of 993 and 988, respectively."

Lapchick noted that, "Alabama and LSU, which will contend for the National Championship, both had fine academic records. They had APR rates of 963 and 966, respectively. They graduated 69 percent and 77 percent of all their football student-athletes, 62 percent and 69 percent of their African-

American and 89 percent and 91 percent of their white football student-athletes, respectively. They beat the national average for bowl teams in each category.”

The top 15 APR Schools are represented through multiple conferences. The Southeastern Conference, Big 10 and the Mountain West are all represented by three schools. One conference (Atlantic Coast Conference) had two teams in the top 15 and three conferences (Big East, Pacific-12 and Mid-American Conference) had one team. Also included in the top 15 was Notre Dame, an independent school. This year, three schools from Conference USA have an APR in the bottom seven of all bowl-bound teams.

One bowl has both teams with APRs higher than 970. The Taxslayer.com Gator Bowl has Ohio State and Florida with 985 and 976, respectively.

NCAA statistics were used in this study. The Institute reviewed data collected by the NCAA from member institutions for the graduation rate study. The Institute reviewed the six-year graduation rates of each school’s freshman class that enrolled in 2004-05, and it then calculated a four-class average (freshmen classes of 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005).

The NCAA created the APR in 2004 as part of an academic reform package designed to more accurately measure student-athletes’ academic success as well as improve graduation rates at member institutions. The APR holds each team accountable for the success of student-athletes in the classroom and their progression towards graduation. Individual teams are penalized if they fall below an APR score of 925, which is an expected graduation rate of 50 percent of its student-athletes. As of now, scholarship reductions are the only penalties: up to 10 percent of scholarships can be taken away. Over time, historical penalties will be put into place for schools who continue to fall below the 925 APR. This year, one bowl bound team has an APR below 925, which is the same as last year’s report. Louisville was the only program subject to penalties by the NCAA due to their APR score. Florida International, the only team to have an APR below 925 last year, is still being penalized by the NCAA. It should be noted that the new NCAA APR standard which has yet to be implemented will be 930.

It is noteworthy to mention that the University of Southern California was banned from participating in postseason play due to NCAA violations, while the University of Miami (FL) voluntarily decided not to be considered for a bowl bid.

The APR data does not include data from the 2010-11 academic performances of the teams in the study but instead uses four years of data ending in the 2009-10 school year. This is the most updated data available on the NCAA website.

The study was co-authored by Michael Farris and Sean Williams.

The Institute has taken the position that Federal Graduation Rates (FGR) gives an unfair depiction of a school because it does not account for transfer students. A student-athlete who transfers in good standing and graduates at another institution counts as a non-graduate at the initial school. The FGR also does not count a junior college student who transfers into a four-year college and graduates as a graduate or a former student-athlete who returns and graduates more than six years after original enrollment. The Institute supports the NCAA’s use of the Graduation Success Rates (GSR), developed in 2005, which accounts for these factors, as a better way to fairly measure the results.

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport serves as a comprehensive resource for issues related to gender and race in amateur, collegiate and professional sports. The Institute researches and publishes a variety of studies, including annual studies of student-athlete graduation rates and racial attitudes in sports, as well as the nationally recognized Racial and Gender Report Card, an assessment of hiring practices in coaching and sport management. Additionally, The Institute conducts diversity management training in conjunction with the National Consortium for Academics and Sports. The Institute also will monitor some of the critical ethical issues in college and professional sport, including the potential for the exploitation of student-athletes, gambling, performance-enhancing drugs and violence in sport.

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport is part of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program in the University of Central Florida's College of Business Administration. This landmark program focuses on business skills necessary for graduates to conduct successful careers in the rapidly changing and dynamic sports industry while also emphasizing diversity, community service and sport and social issues.

Academic Rates for Teams in the 2011 - 2012 NCAA FBS Bowl Games

| Bowl Name | Participants | APR | Graduation Success Rates (GSR) | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | Overall Football Student-Athlete | African-American Football Student-Athlete | White Football Student-Athlete | Overall Student-Athlete |
| Allstate BCS National Championship | Alabama | 963 | 69 | 62 | 89 | 82 |
| | LSU | 966 | 77 | 69 | 91 | 78 |
| Allstate Sugar Bowl | Michigan | 928 | 71 | 63 | 76 | 82 |
| | Virginia Tech | 955 | 79 | 76 | 83 | 91 |
| Discover Orange Bowl | Clemson | 977 | 62 | 55 | 100 | 82 |
| | West Virginia | 962 | 75 | 71 | 78 | 80 |
| Tostitos Fiesta Bowl | Oklahoma State | 942 | 65 | 61 | 72 | 77 |
| | Stanford | 977 | 87 | 75 | 94 | 94 |
| Rose Bowl Game Presented by Vizio | Oregon | 941 | 63 | 51 | 78 | 80 |
| | Wisconsin | 967 | 66 | 50 | 86 | 81 |
| Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl | Illinois | 949 | 76 | 70 | 84 | 89 |
| | UCLA | 956 | 59 | 46 | 78 | 83 |
| BBVA Compass Bowl | Southern Methodist | 939 | 72 | 70 | 73 | 84 |
| | Pittsburgh | 949 | 65 | 56 | 83 | 78 |
| AT&T Cotton Bowl | Kansas State | 940 | 62 | 58 | 66 | 78 |
| | Arkansas | 937 | 56 | 44 | 80 | 73 |
| GoDaddy.com Bowl | Northern Illinois | 987 | 73 | 72 | 84 | 82 |
| | Arkansas State | 943 | 73 | 68 | 85 | 77 |
| Taxslayer.com Gator Bowl | Ohio State | 985 | 67 | 51 | 84 | 82 |
| | Florida | 976 | 76 | 75 | 88 | 83 |
| Capital One Bowl | Nebraska | 958 | 67 | 58 | 78 | 74 |
| | South Carolina | 954 | 55 | 45 | 83 | 77 |
| Outback Bowl | Michigan State | 938 | 62 | 52 | 80 | 83 |
| | Georgia | 976 | 65 | 63 | 67 | 79 |
| TicketCity Bowl | Houston | 929 | 57 | 46 | 79 | 69 |
| | Penn State | 972 | 87 | 87 | 89 | 88 |
| Chick-fil-A Bowl | Virginia | 947 | 68 | 60 | 81 | 87 |
| | Auburn | 940 | 63 | 52 | 95 | 76 |
| Autozone Liberty Bowl | Cincinnati | 936 | 79 | 65 | 87 | 81 |
| | Vanderbilt | 977 | 86 | 86 | 88 | 92 |
| Hyundai Sun Bowl | Georgia Tech | 966 | 55 | 52 | 68 | 77 |
| | Utah | 956 | 62 | 52 | 80 | 79 |
| Meineke Car Care of Texas | Texas A&M | 940 | 59 | 45 | 92 | 73 |
| | Northwestern | 993 | 94 | 92 | 96 | 96 |
| Bridgepoint Education Holiday Bowl | Texas | 941 | 57 | 47 | 73 | 74 |
| | California | 949 | 54 | 46 | 56 | 79 |
| Franklin American Mortgage Music City | Wake Forest | 971 | 81 | 78 | 89 | 94 |
| | Mississippi State | 952 | 62 | 56 | 83 | 79 |
| New Era Pinstripe Bowl | Iowa State | 932 | 63 | 40 | 91 | 79 |
| | Rutgers | 988 | 89 | 88 | 94 | 86 |

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| Bell Helicopter Armed Forces | BYU | 929 | 57 | 47 | 71 | 76 |
| | Tulsa | 927 | 63 | 49 | 83 | 80 |
| Valero Alamo | Baylor | 951 | 62 | 62 | 68 | 79 |
| | Washington | 946 | 76 | 67 | 84 | 83 |
| Belk Bowl | Louisville | 908 | 66 | 59 | 80 | 81 |
| | North Carolina State | 929 | 56 | 46 | 83 | 74 |
| Military Bowl Presented by Northrop Grumman | Toledo | 943 | 64 | 58 | 82 | 78 |
| | Air Force | 978 | 84 | 80 | 85 | 90 |
| Insight Bowl | Iowa | 947 | 83 | 72 | 94 | 86 |
| | Oklahoma | 960 | 48 | 44 | 57 | 71 |
| Champs Sports Bowl | Florida State | 932 | 56 | 44 | 93 | 79 |
| | Notre Dame | 971 | 97 | 100 | 93 | 99 |
| AdvoCare V100 Independence Bowl | North Carolina | 955 | 75 | 91 | 68 | 88 |
| | Missouri | 967 | 66 | 62 | 78 | 81 |
| Little Caesars Bowl | Western Michigan | 963 | 61 | 43 | 78 | 81 |
| | Purdue | 939 | 59 | 51 | 73 | 77 |
| Sheraton Hawaii Bowl | Southern Mississippi | 928 | 78 | 77 | 80 | 81 |
| | Nevada | 943 | 70 | 64 | 79 | 78 |
| S.D. County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl | TCU | 972 | 78 | 69 | 91 | 85 |
| | Louisiana Tech | 944 | 75 | 73 | 80 | 72 |
| Maaco Las Vegas Bowl | Boise State | 981 | 74 | 67 | 78 | 74 |
| | Arizona State | 940 | 64 | 57 | 83 | 79 |
| Beef o' Brady's St. Petersburg Bowl | Florida International | 936 | 43 | 33 | 53 | 58 |
| | Marshall | 947 | 77 | 69 | 95 | 86 |
| R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl | San Diego State | 934 | 56 | 58 | 68 | 70 |
| | Louisiana-Lafayette | 943 | 56 | 48 | 65 | 65 |
| Famous Idaho Potato Bowl | Ohio | 950 | 71 | 50 | 96 | 82 |
| | Utah State | 946 | 77 | 68 | 88 | 84 |
| Gildan New Mexico Bowl | Temple | 937 | 60 | 47 | 82 | 77 |
| | Wyoming | 933 | 64 | 47 | 69 | 73 |
| | | | Overall Football Student- Athlete | African- American Football Student-Athlete | White Football Student- Athlete | Overall Student- Athlete |
| | 2011-12 Averages | APR | 68.2 | 60.8 | 81.1 | 80.4 |
| | | 951.9 | | | | |