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Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Success and Academic Progress Rates for the 2013 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Teams

Graduation Rate Study of NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Teams Reveals Some Improvement in Overall Graduation Rates and APR Performance but Continuing Large Disparities between the Academic Success of White and African-American Student-Athletes

Orlando, FL...March 18, 2013 – The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida (UCF) released its annual study, **“Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Success and Academic Progress Rates for the 2013 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament Teams.”** This study provides the most comprehensive analysis of the academic performance of student-athletes on teams participating in the 2013 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament.

The study examines the Graduation Success Rates (GSR) and Academic Progress Rates (APR) for tournament teams as reported by the NCAA. This study also compares the graduation rate data of white and African-American male basketball student-athletes.

Dr. Richard Lapchick, the primary author of the study, is the director of TIDES and Chair of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program at UCF. This study was co-authored by Cory Bernstine and Andrew Hippert.

Richard Lapchick said, “There is good news to report in almost every category examined. First, there was improvement in the graduation rates for 2013. The overall GSR for male basketball student-athletes increased in 2013 to 70 percent from 67 percent in 2012. The GSR numbers for white male basketball student-athletes increased slightly from 88 percent in 2012 to 90 percent in 2013. The GSR for African-American male basketball student-athletes increased substantially by six percentage points from 59 percent in 2012 to 65 percent in 2013.

The enormous gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American student-athletes narrowed by three percent from 28 percent in 2012 to 25 percent in 2013.

In the 2013 men's field, three teams were below the 925 APR standard compared to eight teams in the 2012 field. The APR standard has been elevated to 930 and six tournament teams fall below 930.

Lapchick added, “While all of that is positive news, the most troubling statistic in our study is the continuing large disparity between the GSR of white basketball student-athletes and African-American

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basketball student-athletes. Although the gap closed by three percent, it remains a staggering 25 percent.

Lapchick commented on two other alarming statistics. “It is simply not acceptable that in 2013, 40 percent of the men’s teams had a GSR disparity of greater than 30 percent between white student-athletes and African-American student-athletes, and 53 percent had a GSR disparity of greater than 20 percent.”

However, there was more good news regarding the overall GSR:

- 87 percent (59 teams) graduated 50 percent or more of their men’s basketball student-athletes in 2013, up from 79 percent (54 teams) in 2012.
- 65 percent (44 teams) graduated 60 percent or more of their men’s basketball student-athletes in 2013, in 2013, from 57 percent (39 teams) in 2012.
- 53 percent (36 teams) graduated 70 percent or more of their men’s basketball student-athletes in 2013, up from 40 percent (27 teams) in 2012.
- The percentage of teams with GSRs below 40 percent decreased to six percent (four teams) in 2013 from last year’s rate of seven percent.

Lapchick emphasized that, “We are doing better each year. The academic reforms instituted in the past have worked. We need to raise the bar and move toward 60 percent being the acceptable standard for the APR. Two thirds of this year’s team in the men’s tournament are already there. The NCAA has started to do this by raising the APR minimum score to 930 this year. The schools are way ahead of this as 79 percent of the teams have a score of 950 or more.”

The APR, developed in 2004, is a four-year average of academic performance that rewards student-athletes for remaining eligible as well as continuing their education at the same school. The NCAA recently voted to institute stricter policies with regards to APR performance and postseason athletic participation. The new legislation will require teams to have a four-year APR above 930, equivalent to a 50 percent graduation rate, to qualify for postseason participation the following year. The current system provides that teams scoring below a 925 APR can lose up to 10 percent of their scholarships. Teams can also be subject to historical penalties for poor academic performance over time. Beginning last year, teams that receive three straight years of historical penalties (below 900 APR or approximately a 45 percent GSR) face the potential of restrictions on postseason competition for the team, in addition to scholarship and practice restrictions.

Over the past few years, there has been a steady reduction of the number of teams that fell below the 925 APR cut score. In the 2013 men’s field, three teams lie below the now previous 925 APR standard compared to eight teams in 2012, 10 teams in the 2011 field, 19 teams in 2010, and 21 teams in 2009.

The 2013 tournament field saw a large increase in the percentage of teams whose APR was greater than 950 going from 62 percent in 2012 to 79 percent in 2013.

However, with the new standards, six teams (nine percent) have APRs below 930 this year, meaning those teams would not be eligible for postseason participation under the future NCAA rules. These teams include Southern University, James Madison University, Saint Louis University, New Mexico State University, University of Oregon and Oklahoma State University. This is based on a four year average that is available on the NCAA’s website

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Lapchick noted, "Race remains a continuing academic issue. By itself, the 25-percentage point gap between graduation rates for white and African-American student-athletes demonstrates that. However, it must be emphasized that African-American male basketball student-athletes graduate at a much higher rate than African-American males who are not student-athletes. The graduation rate for African-American male college students as a whole is only 38 percent, a full 27 percentage points lower than for African-American male basketball student-athletes.

"The blame does not rest alone with our institutions of higher education. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's emphasis on improving urban high schools is an important starting point as many of our African-American student-athletes graduate from those underfunded and underequipped schools. When some African-American students arrive on too many of our predominantly white campuses, they are not fully welcomed whether or not they are athletes. In many cases, the athletics department is more welcoming. There are lessons that our campuses could learn from athletics. We have to find new ways to narrow this gap."

"There are schools that show the way. We usually try to create a "top 10" list based on the GSR of each participating team. In 2013 it would have to be a "top 11" list because these teams all had a GSR rate of 100 percent: Western Kentucky University, University of Illinois-Champaign, Harvard University, Villanova University, Duke University, Bucknell University, University of Kansas, Belmont University, University of Notre Dame, University of the Pacific and Davidson College.

Note: The percentages for this report were calculated as follows:

1. *Overall rates were based on 68 teams*
2. *Rates for African-American student-athletes are based on 67 teams due to Davidson College having no African-American basketball student-athletes in the period recorded.*
3. *Rates for white student-athletes are based on 56 teams due to Southern University, Northwestern State University, Temple University, University of Memphis, James Madison University, University of Cincinnati, University of Colorado, Iona College, Virginia Commonwealth University, Georgetown University, Long Island University-Brooklyn, and University of Miami (Florida) having no white basketball student-athletes in the period recorded.*
4. *The disparity figures are based on 55 teams due to the fact that the 13 teams listed above either had no white basketball student-athletes or African-American basketball student-athletes in the period being reported.*

The GSR was developed in 2005 in response to the demand for a more accurate measure of graduation performance of NCAA athletics programs. In order to calculate the GSR, the NCAA tracks student-athletes for six years following their entrance to an NCAA member institution to monitor the graduation rates of member institutions and their athletic programs. The GSR is used by the NCAA as a measuring device to signal performance of NCAA athletic programs while the APR is used to determine penalties for academically underperforming athletic programs.

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport ("TIDES" or the "Institute") serves as a comprehensive resource for issues related to gender and race in amateur, collegiate and professional sport. The Institute researches and publishes a variety of studies, including annual studies of student-athlete graduation rates and racial attitudes in sport, as well as the internationally recognized Racial and Gender

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Report Card, an assessment of hiring practices in coaching and sport management in professional and college sport. The Institute also monitors some of the critical ethical issues in college and professional sport, including the potential for exploitation of student-athletes, gambling, performance-enhancing drugs and violence in sport.

The Institute 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 sport business and entertainment management industry while also emphasizing diversity, community service, and social issues in sport.

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Graduation Rates for 2013 Men's Teams in the NCAA Division I Basketball Tournament					
School	APR	Overall MBB Student-Athlete	African-American MBB Student-Athlete	White MBB Student-Athlete	Overall Student-Athlete
Belmont University	1000	100	100	100	92
Boise State University	956	79	63	100	76
Bucknell University	995	100	100	100	99
Butler University	1000	80	33	100	83
Colorado State University	953	53	40	100	82
Creighton University	975	91	80	100	94
Davidson College	990	100	-	100	97
Duke University	995	100	100	100	98
Florida Gulf Coast University	932	73	100	80	73
Georgetown University	960	80	78	-	94
Gonzaga University	979	90	100	80	96
Harvard University	974	100	100	100	98
Indiana University - Bloomington	952	43	45	100	80
Iona College	960	60	73	-	81
Iowa State University	943	50	14	100	80
James Madison University	924	60	50	-	83
Kansas State University	960	58	50	100	77
La Salle University	969	64	43	100	91
Liberty University	969	58	40	75	74
Long Island University - Brooklyn	951	85	78	-	82
Marquette University	970	87	89	80	91
Michigan State University	981	89	75	100	85
Middle Tennessee State University	961	83	78	100	78
New Mexico State University	926	29	25	100	70
North Carolina A&T State University	934	25	33	0	55
North Carolina State University	974	73	83	50	77
Northwestern State University	960	75	70	-	68
Oklahoma State University	928	50	44	100	77
Saint Louis University	923	64	40	100	87
Saint Mary's College	967	92	100	83	92
San Diego State University	935	62	63	100	73
South Dakota State University	985	44	0	57	83
Southern University	862	27	27	-	51
Syracuse University	936	58	43	80	87
Temple University	980	43	36	-	78
The Ohio State University	962	45	38	100	85
University of Colorado	962	60	63	-	75
University of Akron	980	57	50	67	73
University of Albany	955	82	80	83	82
University of Arizona	975	54	38	100	68
University of California - Los Angeles	942	70	80	100	84
University of California- Berkeley	950	50	33	50	80
University of Cincinnati	956	56	54	-	78
University of Florida	983	17	0	100	82
University of Illinois - Champaign	952	100	100	100	89
University of Kansas	1000	100	100	100	85
University of Louisville	965	75	80	100	80
University of Memphis	1000	50	50	-	81
University of Miami (Florida)	980	87	92	-	93
University of Michigan	1000	64	57	100	84
University of Minnesota	954	54	50	100	83
University of Mississippi (Ole Miss)	990	56	50	100	76
University of Missouri	974	67	56	100	84
University of Montana	960	73	75	83	80
University of Nevada - Las Vegas	961	92	88	100	76
University of New Mexico	964	50	43	75	75
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill	963	91	86	100	88
University of Notre Dame	1000	100	100	100	99
University of Oklahoma	956	71	67	100	72
University of Oregon	926	85	80	100	80
University of Pittsburgh	990	54	44	0	78
University of the Pacific	943	100	100	100	84
University of Wisconsin	965	40	14	100	83
Valparaiso University	968	80	100	100	94
Villanova University	978	100	100	100	94
Virginia Commonwealth University	956	73	73	-	80
Western Kentucky University	944	100	100	100	79
Wichita State University	954	90	100	80	83
Average		70	65	90	82

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