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Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Success and Academic Progress Rates for the 2014 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 17, 2014 – 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 2014 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 2014 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 Drew Donovan and Juan Dominguez.

Richard Lapchick said, “There is not much good news to report as almost every category examined remained the same or got worse. The GSR numbers for white male basketball student-athletes decreased slightly from 90 percent in 2013 to 89 percent in 2014. The GSR for African-American male basketball student-athletes remained the same from 2013 to 2014 at 65 percent.

The enormous gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American student-athletes narrowed slightly by one percent from 25 percent in 2013 to 24 percent in 2014.

In the 2014 men's field, six teams were below the 925 APR standard compared to three teams in the 2013 field. The APR standard has been elevated to 930 and eight tournament teams fall below 930. Last year six tournament teams fell below the 930 standard.

Lapchick added, "The most troubling statistic in our study is the continuing large disparity between the GSR of white basketball student-athletes and African-American basketball student-athletes. Although the gap closed by one percent, it is still a staggering 24 percent in 2014."

Lapchick commented on two other alarming statistics. "It is simply not acceptable that in 2014, 38 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 47 percent had a GSR disparity of greater than 20 percent."

There was mixed news regarding the overall GSR:

- 87 percent (59 teams) graduated 50 percent or more of their men's basketball student-athletes in 2014, remained the same as in 2013.
- 78 percent (53 teams) graduated 60 percent or more of their men's basketball student-athletes in 2014, up from 65 percent (44 teams) in 2013.
- 53 percent (36 teams) graduated 70 percent or more of their men's basketball student-athletes in 2014, remained the same as in 2013.
- The percentage of teams with GSRs below 40 percent decreased to three percent (two teams) in 2014 from last year's rate of six percent (four teams).

Lapchick emphasized that, "This year we seemed to be treading water instead of moving ahead. The academic reforms have led to positive change since their passage almost a decade ago. We need to raise the bar and move toward 60 percent being the acceptable standard for the APR. This year 88 percent of the teams 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 74 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 two years ago, teams that receive three straight years of historical penalties (below 900 APR or approximately a 45

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percent GSR) face the potential of restrictions on postseason competition for the team, in addition to scholarship and practice restrictions.

Until this year, there had been a steady reduction of the number of teams that fell below the original 925 APR cut score. In the 2014 men's field, six teams are below the old 925 APR standard compared to three teams in 2013, eight teams in 2012, 10 teams in the 2011 field, 19 teams in 2010, and 21 teams in 2009.

The percentage of teams whose APR was greater than 950 dropped to 74 percent in 2014 from 79 percent in 2013.

However, with the new standards, eight teams (12 percent) have APRs below 930 this year. Those teams would be subject to NCAA imposed sanctions that could include not being eligible for postseason participation. These teams include California Polytechnic State University, Coastal Carolina University, North Carolina Central University, Oklahoma State University, Providence College, Texas Southern University, University of Connecticut, and University of Oregon.

Lapchick noted, "Race remains a continuing academic issue not only in college sports but also in higher education in general. The 24 percentage point gap between graduation rates for white and African-American male basketball 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 39 percent, a full 26 percentage points lower than for African-American male basketball student-athletes."

Lapchick continued to emphasize "that Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's push to improve urban high schools is crucial. Many of our African-American student-athletes graduate from underfunded and underequipped schools. Some arrive on too many of our predominantly white campuses and do not feel fully welcomed whether or not they are athletes. We have to find new ways to narrow this gap."

"There are schools that show the way. If we were to choose a Top 10 for Graduation Success Rates, these schools would be there: American University, Brigham Young University, Duke University, Harvard University, University of Dayton, University of Kansas, Villanova University, Western Michigan University, Xavier University, *Baylor University, *Creighton University, *Eastern Kentucky University, and *Mount St. Mary's University. In 2014 seven men's teams had a GSR rate of 100 percent: Duke University, Harvard University, University of Dayton, University of Kansas, Villanova University, Western Michigan University, and Xavier University.

**These schools tied in their respective GSR ratings.*

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 68 teams due to zero teams having no African-American basketball student-athletes in the period recorded.*
3. *Rates for white student-athletes are based on 57 teams due to George Washington University, Manhattan University, North Carolina Central University, Texas Southern University, University of Cincinnati, University of Connecticut, University of Memphis, University of Michigan, University of Nebraska, University of Oklahoma, and Virginia Commonwealth University, having no white basketball student-athletes in the period recorded.*
4. *The disparity figures are based on 57 teams due to the fact that the 11 teams listed above either had no white basketball student-athletes or African-American basketball student-athletes in the period being reported.*

NCAA statistics were used in the study. The institute reviewed the six-year graduation rates of each school's freshmen class that enrolled in 2006-07, and then it calculated a four-year class average (freshmen classes of 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07) The APR data does not include data from the 2012-13 academic performances of the teams in the study, but instead uses the four-year data from the 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12 academic years.

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 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.

Graduation Rates for 2014 Men's Teams in the NCAA Division I Basketball Tournament					
School	APR	Overall Mens Basketball Student Athlete	African-American Basketball Student-Athlete	White Basketball Student-Athlete	Overall Student-Athlete
American University	980	93	80	100	95
Arizona State University	973	75	67	100	82
Baylor University	965	91	89	100	86
Brigham Young University	981	92	100	83	73
California Polytechnic State University	925	62	50	71	75
Coastal Carolina University	921	79	71	75	78
Creighton University	971	91	80	100	95
Duke University	995	100	100	100	98
Eastern Kentucky University	979	91	75	100	81
George Washington University	975	60	57	--	93
Gonzaga University	979	82	100	83	95
Harvard University	956	100	100	100	98
Iowa State University	949	54	14	100	79
Kansas State University	964	64	63	50	77
Manhattan University	945	69	75	--	92
Mercer University	960	79	57	100	89
Michigan State University	971	89	67	100	87
Mount St. Mary's University	950	91	100	67	85
New Mexico State University	942	29	27	100	73
North Carolina Central University	903	45	42	--	60
North Carolina State University	984	89	100	67	82
North Dakota State University	957	79	67	90	82
Ohio State University	972	46	33	100	89
Oklahoma State University	928	44	38	100	74
Providence College	915	67	67	50	89
St. Josephs University	953	90	86	100	93
Saint Louis University	950	63	25	100	92
San Diego State University	935	75	63	100	75
Stanford University	984	83	100	75	97
Stephen F. Austin State University	950	56	43	100	60
Syracuse University	933	45	43	50	87
Texas Southern University	900	45	37	--	45
University of Albany	965	80	75	86	80
University of Arizona	969	64	40	100	73
University of California, Los Angeles	951	60	50	100	87
University of Cincinnati	955	58	60	--	79
University of Colorado	984	67	60	100	81
University of Connecticut	897	8	9	--	80
University of Dayton	985	100	100	100	96
University of Delaware	959	64	43	100	80
University of Florida	989	60	50	100	83
University of Iowa	953	88	80	100	88
University of Kansas	1000	100	100	100	84
University of Kentucky	963	82	75	100	79
University of Louisiana at Lafayette	951	64	64	67	74
University of Louisville	995	70	57	100	81
University of Massachusetts	944	60	50	100	79
University of Memphis	995	55	60	--	84
University of Michigan	995	75	67	--	88
University of Nebraska	935	56	57	--	80
University of New Mexico	985	45	33	67	74
University of North Carolina	959	90	86	100	86
University of Oklahoma	960	69	73	--	76
University of Oregon	918	77	71	100	81
University of Pittsburgh	975	54	55	0	77
University of Tennessee	973	60	43	100	75
University of Texas	973	83	50	100	80
University of Tulsa	949	77	71	67	86
University of Virginia	946	64	57	100	88
University of Wisconsin	980	44	0	100	85
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee	941	67	33	75	77
Villanova University	978	100	100	100	93
Virginia Commonwealth University	960	85	80	--	75
Weber State University	975	75	75	83	63
Western Michigan University	976	100	100	100	83
Wichita State University	955	75	83	75	81
Wofford College	973	90	86	100	92
Xavier University	965	100	100	100	97
Average		72	65	89	82