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Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Success and Academic Progress Rates for the 2012 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 12, 2012 – 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 2012 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 2012 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 Sean Williams and Aaron Trigg.

Richard Lapchick said, “There was some good news to report. There was a slight improvement in the graduation rates for 2012. The enormous gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American student-athletes narrowed by almost four percent. The number of teams below the APR cut score decreased.” The overall GSR for male basketball student-athletes saw a slight increase in 2012 to 67 percent from 66 percent in 2011. The GSR numbers for white male basketball student-athletes dropped from 91 percent in 2011 to 88 percent in 2012. The GSR for African-American male basketball student-athletes increased slightly from 59 percent in 2011 to 60 percent in 2012. In the 2012 men's field, eight teams were below the 925 APR standard compared to 10 teams in the 2011 field.

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 basketball student-athletes. Although the gap closed by four percent, it remains an embarrassing 28 percent. The primary reason for most of the change in disparity was the decrease in the GSR of white student-athletes.”

There was a three percent increase in the number of teams that graduated 50 percent or more of their student-athletes, from 76 percent (51 teams) in 2011 to 79 percent (54 teams) in 2012. The percentage of teams with GSRs below 40 percent decreased to 7 percent (5 teams) in 2012, which is three percent lower than last year's rate of 10 percent.

However, the percentage of teams with a GSR above 60 percent decreased six percentage points to 57 percent (39 teams) in 2012 from 63 percent (42 teams) in 2011. There was also a decrease in the number of teams whose GSR is above 70 percent, from 48 percent (32 teams) in 2011 to 39 percent (27 teams) in 2012.

Lapchick emphasized that, "We need to raise the bar and move toward 60 percent being the acceptable standard for the APR. The NCAA has started to do that by raising the APR minimum score to 930 in the future."

The APR, developed in 2004, is a four-year average of academic performance that rewards student-athletes for remaining eligible as well as continuing 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 improvement in the number of teams that fell below the 925 APR cut score. In the 2012 men's field, eight teams (Colorado State, Mississippi Valley State, New Mexico State, Norfolk State, Ohio, St. Bonaventure, Connecticut and Southern Mississippi) lie below the current 925 APR standard compared to 10 teams in the 2011 field, 19 teams in 2010, and 21 teams in 2009. The 2012 tournament field saw increases in the percentage of teams whose APR was greater than 950. The result was an increase to 62 percent (48 teams) in 2012 as compared to 60 percent (41 teams) in 2011.

However, looking ahead to the new standards, 13 teams (19 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 2011 National Champion University of Connecticut and number one seed Syracuse University, as well as St. Louis, Florida State, Indiana, Southern Mississippi, Colorado State, Colorado, Mississippi Valley State, New Mexico State, Norfolk State, Ohio, and St. Bonaventure.

Lapchick noted, "Race remains a continuing academic issue. By itself, the 28 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 22 percentage points lower than for African-American male basketball student-athletes. Presently, too many of our predominantly

white campuses are not fully welcoming places for students of color, whether or not they are athletes. There are lessons that our campuses could learn from athletics. We have to find new ways to narrow this gap. 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 start as many of our African-American student-athletes graduate from those underfunded and underequipped schools."

The 2012 NCAA Tournament field also reveals the following alarming numbers:

- 51 percent of all teams (28 teams) in the field have a disparity of over 30 percent in GSR between white student-athletes and African-American student-athletes.
- 62 percent of all teams (34 teams) in the field have a disparity of over 20 percent in GSR between white student-athletes and African-American student-athletes.

"These numbers demonstrate the continuation of a troubling trend in the GSR disparity. While there was a decrease in the GSR disparity from 2011 where 54 percent of teams (30 teams) had a GSR disparity of greater than 30 percent between white student-athletes and African-American student-athletes, and 64 percent (36 teams) had a GSR disparity of greater than 20 percent, these numbers are still unacceptable," said Dr. Lapchick.

If there were a top 10 list based on the GSR of each participating team, the following schools would be included: Xavier, Duke, Belmont, Notre Dame, Harvard, Creighton, Vanderbilt, Davidson, Western Kentucky, and BYU. This collection of teams all had GSRs greater than 93 percent. Eight of these teams had a GSR of 100 percent (Duke, Belmont, Notre Dame, Western Kentucky, Harvard, Creighton, Davidson, and BYU).

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 were based on 67 teams due to Harvard having no African-American basketball student-athletes in the period recorded.*
3. *Rates for white student-athletes were based on 56 teams due to Baylor, Georgetown, Cincinnati, VCU, Memphis, Southern Mississippi, Iona, Colorado, Alabama, Missouri, Norfolk State, and Mississippi Valley State having no white basketball student-athletes in the period recorded.*
4. *The disparity figures are based on 55 teams due to Baylor, Georgetown, Cincinnati, VCU, Memphis, Southern Mississippi, Iona, Colorado, Alabama, Missouri, Norfolk State, and Mississippi Valley State having no white basketball student-athletes and Harvard having no African-American basketball student-athletes in the period recorded.*

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. Additionally, the Institute conducts diversity management training in conjunction with the National Consortium for Academics and Sports. 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 2012 Men's Teams in the NCAA Division I Basketball Tournament					
School	APR	Overall Student-Athlete	African-American Basketball Student-Athlete	White Basketball Student-Athlete	Overall Basketball Student-Athlete
Baylor University	972	79	50	-	56
Belmont University	995	91	100	100	100
Brigham Young University	991	76	100	100	100
Colorado State University	914	83	43	100	64
Creighton University	960	96	100	100	100
Davidson College	995	97	100	100	100
Duke University	990	97	100	100	100
Florida State University	926	79	57	100	67
Georgetown University	937	94	67	-	70
Gonzaga University	985	94	50	83	73
Harvard University	991	98	-	100	100
Indiana University, Bloomington	929	77	43	100	47
Iona College	955	83	70	-	53
Iowa State University	936	79	29	100	45
Kansas State University	937	78	38	100	50
Lamar University	934	68	67	0	65
Lehigh University	994	86	67	100	85
Long Beach State University	950	78	44	50	45
Long Island University - Brooklyn Campus	933	83	88	100	91
Loyola University Maryland	966	96	83	100	92
Marquette University	980	92	80	100	91
Michigan State University	995	83	67	100	82
Mississippi Valley State University	884	42	35	-	35
Murray State University	932	72	50	100	56
New Mexico State University	906	66	23	100	28
Norfolk State University	894	61	50	-	43
North Carolina State University	985	74	83	50	80
Ohio State University	952	82	50	100	57
Ohio University	910	82	67	100	79
Purdue University	954	77	43	67	50
Saint Louis University	925	87	50	100	67
San Diego State University	938	70	63	100	62
South Dakota State University	964	80	0	67	50
St. Bonaventure University	894	88	56	67	65
St. Mary's College of California	953	94	67	80	82
Syracuse University	928	86	44	75	54
Temple University	954	77	36	0	43
University of Alabama	973	82	60	-	67
University of California, Berkeley	948	79	14	50	33
University of Cincinnati	992	81	53	-	56
University of Colorado, Boulder	926	74	42	-	43
University of Connecticut	893	81	14	50	25
University of Detroit Mercy	936	92	86	100	89
University of Florida	964	83	20	100	38
University of Kansas	1000	79	80	100	91
University of Kentucky	974	77	60	100	69
University of Louisville	965	81	50	100	56
University of Memphis	989	80	50	-	55
University of Michigan	970	82	38	100	45
University of Missouri, Columbia	974	81	57	-	67
University of Montana	950	74	60	100	75
University of Nevada, Las Vegas	961	72	44	100	67
University of New Mexico	932	74	50	75	57
University of North Carolina, Asheville	964	65	57	50	57
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	985	88	86	100	89
University of Notre Dame	989	99	100	100	100
University of South Florida	937	74	50	100	44
University of Southern Mississippi	910	81	45	-	42
University of Texas at Austin	1000	74	33	80	67
University of Vermont	980	95	100	100	86
University of Virginia	940	87	33	100	50
University of Wisconsin, Madison	970	81	29	100	50
Vanderbilt University	974	92	100	100	93
Virginia Commonwealth University	949	78	71	-	67
West Virginia University	995	80	71	100	83
Western Kentucky University	964	80	100	100	100
Wichita State University	955	85	80	100	92
Xavier University	980	95	92	100	93

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