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**Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Rates and Academic Progress Rates for 2009 NCAA Women's and Men's Division I Basketball Tournament Teams**  
***Graduation Rate Study of Division I NCAA Women's and Men's Basketball Tournament Teams Reveals Marked Improvement in Overall Graduation Rates But Large Continuing Disparities of the Success of Male and Female and White and African-American Student-athletes***

**Orlando, FL...March 17, 2009** – The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida released its annual study, “Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Rates for 2009 NCAA Women’s and Men’s Division I Basketball Tournament Teams,” which compares graduation success rates for Division I teams that have been selected for the women’s and men’s brackets of the 2009 NCAA Basketball Tournaments. The author of the study is Dr. Richard Lapchick, who is director of The Institute and Chair of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program at UCF. The study was co-authored this year by Cara-Lynn Lopresti and Nathalie Reshard.

The study examines the Graduation Success Rates (GSR) and Academic Progress Rates (APR) for the tournament teams. The study compares the academic performance of male and female basketball student-athletes and of African-American and white basketball student-athletes. The study on the men’s tournament teams was released on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Lapchick emphasized that “women basketball student-athletes do much better academically than men and the gap between the academic success between African-American and white women’s basketball student-athletes is smaller, although still significant, than between African-American and white men’s basketball student-athletes. Women have regularly been the best news academically in college sport.”

Lapchick noted, “The GSR, developed in late 2005, and the four years of APR data provides a more accurate picture of the success student-athletes have in the classroom at NCAA member institutions. Based on the GSR, 61 women’s teams (98 percent, equal to that in 2008) of the total graduated at least 50 percent of its basketball student-athletes. That compared to 40 men’s teams (63 percent down from 64 percent in 2008).

In addition:

- 60 women’s teams (97 percent, equal to that in 2008) compared to 30 (48 percent, equal to that in 2008) of the men’s teams graduated at least 60 percent.
- 50 women’s teams (81 percent, equal to that in 2008) compared to 22 (35 percent, a one percent increase from 2008) of the men’s teams graduated at least 70 percent.

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- One women's team (equal to that in 2008), North Carolina A&T State, graduated less than 40 percent compared to 15 (24 percent, up from 22 percent in 2008) of the men's teams.

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 by providing sanctions in the form of lost scholarships when teams fail to meet the NCAA standard for academic performance. Teams that score below a 925, which is equivalent to an NCAA GSR rate of approximately 60 percent, can lose up to 10 percent of their scholarships. Teams can also be subject to historical penalties for poor academic performance over time. Starting next year, teams that receive three straight years of historical penalties (below 900 APR) face the potential of restrictions on postseason competition for the team, in addition to scholarship and practice restrictions.

Of the six women's teams (9 percent) below the 925 score this year, only the University of Texas at San Antonio will be subject to contemporaneous penalties by the NCAA. Of the 21 men's teams (32 percent) below the 925 score this year, seven will be subject to contemporaneous penalties by the NCAA. These teams are Cal State Northridge, Southern California, Cleveland State, Morehead State, Portland State, Purdue and Tennessee. This is a significant improvement from 35 men's teams (54 percent) below the 925 score in 2008.

Other results from the APR data show how much better women perform academically and include:

- **30** (47 percent) of the women's tournament teams had an APR of 970 or more vs. **nine** (14 percent) of the men's teams, a **33 percent gap**.
- **40** (63 percent) of the women's tournament teams had an APR of 960 or more vs. **18** (28 percent) of the men's teams, a **35 percent gap**.
- **48** (75 percent) of the women's tournament teams had an APR of 950 or more vs. **23** (35 percent) of the men's teams, a **40 percent gap**.

While there has been general progress with GSR data, Lapchick "remains deeply concerned about the gap between African-American and white basketball student-athletes although it is far less severe among the women. Once again, the results for women stand in stark contrast to the men's teams."

Based on Graduation Success Rate data, highlights from the study include the following:

**70 percent graduation rates**

- **55** of the women's tournament teams (93 percent, up from 89 percent in 2008) graduated 70 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes vs. **33** of the men's teams (58 percent, down from 61 percent in 2008), a **35 percent gap** which is up from a 28 percent gap a year ago.
- **37** of the women's teams (66 percent, up from 61 percent in 2008) graduated 70 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes vs. **only 20** of the men's teams (32 percent up from 30 percent in 2008), a **34 percent gap** which is up from a 31 percent gap a year ago.

**60 percent graduation rates**

- **57** of the women's tournament teams (97 percent, up from 94 percent in 2008) graduated 60 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes while **37** of the men's teams (65 percent, down from 70 percent in 2008) did so, a **32 percent gap** which is substantially bigger than the 24 percent gap a year ago.

- **48** of women's teams (86 percent, up from 85 percent in 2007) graduated 60 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes while **only 26** of the men's teams (42 percent, up from 37 percent in 2008) graduated 60 percent or more, a **44 percent gap** which is also substantially bigger than the 34 percent gap a year ago.

#### **50 percent graduation rates**

- **59** of the women's teams (100 percent, up from 98 percent in 2008) graduated 50 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes vs. **50** of the men's teams (88 percent up from 83 percent in 2008), a **12 percent gap** which is down from a 15 percent gap a year ago.
- **52** of the women's teams (93 percent, up from 90 percent in 2008) graduated 50 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes while **31** of the men's teams (50 percent, down from 57 percent in 2008) did so, a **43 percent gap** which is significantly up from a 33 percent gap a year ago.

Lapchick noted, "NCAA President Myles Brand led the movement for academic reform and his efforts are paying dividends. Schools are responding to the potential loss of scholarships. African-American student-athletes are doing better recently according to the overall GSR.

"However, there can be no doubt that race is an ongoing academic issue because of the continued gap between graduation rates for white and African-American student-athletes. The gap is too significant to ignore."

Graduation success rates for all men's Division I basketball student-athletes have gone up slightly since last year. GSR data indicates that 65 percent (up one percent) of male Division I basketball student-athletes graduate. White men's Division I basketball student-athletes graduate at 80 percent (down one percent) while 58 percent (up one percent) of African-American men's Division I basketball student-athletes graduate. This 22 percent difference is down two percent from last year but still is a cause for alarm in spite of the continued overall improvements. GSR data indicates that 82 percent of female Division I basketball student-athletes graduate. White female basketball student-athletes graduate at 89 percent, while 75 percent of African-American female basketball student-athletes graduate. This 14 percent is slightly improved from a 16 percent gap a year ago.

However, African-American male and female basketball players graduate at a higher rate than African-American male and female students who are not student-athletes. Male students graduate at a rate of 58 percent, which is seven percent less than the GSR for male basketball student-athletes. The graduation rate for African-American male students as a whole is only 38 percent, versus the overall rate of 61 percent for male white students, which is a terrible 23 percentage point gap. Female students graduate at a rate of 64 percent, which is 18 percent less than the GSR for female basketball student-athletes. The graduation rate for African-American female students as a whole is only 49 percent, versus the overall rate of 66 percent for female white students, which is still a disturbing 17 percentage point gap. Our predominantly white campuses too often are not welcoming places for students of color, whether or not they are athletes. These gaps are down one percent from those of a year ago.

Lapchick noted that, "In addition, schools are recruiting many of our African-American basketball players from urban areas. Too many urban schools are underfunded and cannot deliver the resources that would level the academic playing field. This makes it far more difficult for student-athletes and students

in general to be successful. In the meantime, admissions officers need to admit only students who can succeed academically.”

More distressing results from the GSR data are:

- **12 women’s tournament teams** (23 percent, down from 24 percent in 2008) and **20 men’s tournament teams** (36 percent, up from 34 percent in 2008) have graduation success rates for African-American basketball student-athletes that were at least 30 percent lower than their rates for white basketball student-athletes.
- **19 women’s teams** (36 percent, up from 35 percent in 2008) and **25 men’s teams** (45 percent, up from 44 percent in 2008) have graduation rates for African-American basketball student-athletes that were at least 20 percent lower than their rates for white basketball student-athletes.

Lapchick concluded, “As always, there are schools that win big enough to be here in March *and* graduate their student-athletes. We could not pick a Top Ten for women because 14 schools had a 100 percent graduation rate. They included: Connecticut, DePaul, Evansville, Florida, Lehigh, Marist College, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Sacred Heart, Stanford, Tennessee, Texas at Austin, Vanderbilt, and Villanova.

If we were to choose a Top Ten among the men for Graduation Success Rates, these schools would be there: Binghamton, Florida State, Marquette, Robert Morris, Utah State, Wake Forest, Western Kentucky, Butler, Oklahoma State, and Brigham Young University. All of these teams had GSR’s greater than 90 percent. Seven teams achieved a 100 percent GSR: Florida State, Wake Forest, Binghamton, Marquette, Robert Morris, Western Kentucky and Utah State.

NCAA statistics were used in the study. The Institute reviewed 2001-02 graduation (six-year) rates, with a four class average (freshman classes of 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01, and 2001-02). The APR data in this study does not include data from the 2007-08 academic performances of the teams in the study, but instead uses the four-year data from the 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07 academic years. This is the first year without the squad-size adjustment for most teams that was in place until teams accumulated four years of APR data.

**Note: The men’s percentages were calculated as follows:**

1. Overall rates were based on 63 teams. (Cornell, like other Ivy League Schools, does not report graduation rates. North Dakota State also did not report graduation rates.)
2. Rates for African-American student-athletes were based on 62 teams. (In addition to Cornell and North Dakota State not reporting graduation rates, Utah had no African-American basketball student-athletes in the graduating class in the NCAA data from which the study’s data was gathered.)
3. Rates for white student-athletes were based on 57 teams. (In addition to Cornell and North Dakota State not reporting graduation rates, Alabama State, Temple, Memphis, Louisville, Villanova, and Louisiana State University had no white basketball student-athletes in the graduating class in the period under review.)
4. The disparity figures are based on 56 teams because Cornell and North Dakota State do not report graduation rates. In addition, Alabama State, Temple, Memphis, Louisville, Villanova, Louisiana State, and Utah had either no white or black basketball student-athletes.

**Note: The women's percentages were calculated as follows:**

1. Overall rates were based on 62 teams. (Dartmouth, like other Ivy League Schools, does not report graduation rates. South Dakota State also did not report graduation rates.)
2. Rates for African-American student-athletes were based on 56 teams. (In addition to Dartmouth and South Dakota State not reporting graduation rates, Evansville, Marist College, Montana, Sacred Heart, and Wisconsin, Green Bay and Iowa State had no African-American basketball student-athletes in the graduating class in the NCAA data from which the study's data was gathered.)
3. Rates for white student-athletes were based on 59 teams. (In addition to Dartmouth and South Dakota State not reporting graduation rates, Prairie View A&M, Cal, Berkeley, and North Carolina A&T had no white basketball student-athletes in the graduating class in the period under review.)
4. The disparity figures are based on 53 teams because Dartmouth and South Dakota State not report graduation rates. In addition, Evansville, Marist College, Montana, Sacred Heart, and Wisconsin, Green Bay, Iowa State, Prairie View A&M, Cal, Berkeley, and North Carolina A&T had either no white or black basketball student-athletes.

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 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 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.

The Institute has taken the position that Federal Graduation Rates (FGR) give 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 or a former student-athlete who returns and graduates more than six years after original enrollment. The Institute supports the NCAA's new Graduation Success Rates, developed in 2005, which accounts for these factors, as a better way to fairly measure the results.

## APPENDIX

<b>Graduation Success Rates for 2009 Women's Teams in the NCAA Division I Basketball Tournament</b>					
<b>School</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>Overall Student-Athlete</b>	<b>African-American Basketball Student-Athlete</b>	<b>White Basketball Student-Athlete</b>	<b>Overall Basketball Student-Athlete</b>
Arizona State	987	69	75	100	90
Auburn	925	77	55	100	75
Austin Peay State University	903	65	86	80	83
Ball State	985	77	100	92	95
Baylor	967	84	89	88	88
Cal State, Fresno	938	61	60	80	72
California, Berkeley **	970	76	67	-	71
Connecticut	972	81	100	100	100
Dartmouth *	1000				
DePaul	991	83	100	100	100
Drexel	975	80	100	100	90
Duke	984	97	80	100	90
Eastern Tennessee State	950	67	43	100	67
Evansville ***	973	93	-	100	100
Florida	975	87	100	100	100
Florida State	963	80	71	50	60
Georgia	971	70	70	100	79
Georgia Tech	957	70	57	100	69
Gonzaga	987	89	67	100	91
Iowa	977	86	67	100	92
Iowa State ***	975	71	-	93	93
Kansas State	963	77	100	80	83
Lehigh	990	93	100	100	100
Liberty	987	77	100	88	94
Louisville	962	75	86	75	80
LSU	951	69	75	50	70
Marist College ***	981	88	-	100	100
Maryland	966	79	69	100	67
Michigan State	955	79	80	86	85
Middle Tennessee State	917	74	75	80	79
Minnesota, Twin Cities	950	72	57	67	67
Mississippi State	969	78	80	100	83
Montana ***	975	71	-	90	92

School	APR	African-American		White	Overall Basketball Student-Athlete
		Overall Student-Athlete	Basketball Student-Athlete	Basketball Student-Athlete	
North Carolina	975	85	88	100	90
North Carolina A&T State **	904	52	33	-	38
North Carolina, Charlotte	942	79	64	100	67
Notre Dame	977	98	100	100	100
Ohio State	993	78	100	100	100
Oklahoma	973	69	60	100	69
Pittsburg	982	84	100	89	93
Prairie View A&M **	909	68	75	-	75
Purdue	941	79	100	80	89
Rutgers	957	80	80	100	69
Sacred Heart ***	980	90	-	100	100
San Diego State	941	72	80	75	79
South Dakota State ****	960				
Stanford	990	95	100	100	100
TCU	943	68	44	75	59
Temple	937	71	71	100	87
Tennessee	963	78	100	100	100
Texas A&M	948	72	67	80	67
Texas, Austin	974	72	100	100	100
Texas-San Antonio	914	61	67	80	71
UC Santa Barbra	904	80	75	100	94
UCF	967	76	88	100	92
Utah	954	75	0	100	79
Vanderbilt	965	94	100	100	100
VCU	981	71	57	100	73
Vermont	971	69	100	86	93
Villanova	995	95	100	100	100
Virginia	928	86	67	67	71
Western Carolina	954	89	88	86	88
Wisconsin, Green Bay ***	984	92	-	93	93
Xavier	928	92	67	75	67

\*Dartmouth did not report Graduation Success Rates.  
\*\*Cal, Berkeley, Prairie View A&M, North Carolina A&T State had no white basketball student-athletes for GSR purposes.  
\*\*\*Evansville, Marist College, Montana, Sacred Heart, Wisconsin, Green Bay, and Iowa State had no African-American basketball student-athletes for GSR purposes.  
\*\*\*\* South Dakota State did not have GSR data available because it is the school's first year in Division I.

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