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Academic Progress/Graduation Rate Study of Division I NCAA Women's and Men's Basketball Tournament Teams Reveals Women Are Doing Better Than Men But The Gap Between African-American and White Females Persists

Orlando, FL...March 14, 2007 – The University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport released its annual study, "Keeping Score When It Counts: Graduation Rates for 2007 NCAA Men's and Women's Division I Basketball Tournament Teams," which compares academic progress rates and graduation success rates for Division I teams that have been selected for the men's and women's brackets of the 2007 NCAA Basketball Tournaments. The author of the study is Dr. Richard Lapchick, who is director of the Institute and of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program at UCF. The study was co-authored this year by Marina Bustamante.

The study examines the Graduation Success Rates (GSR) and the 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 12th.

Lapchick emphasized that "Our female basketball players have done a fabulous job academically. There is so much good news for the women's tournament teams when we examine the Graduation Success Rates and the Academic Progress Rates in particular. The women basketball student-athletes do much better academically than men. The academic success gap 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."

Lapchick noted "the academic success of the women in the tournament is a great story. They are the epitome of what it means to be a student-athlete. The new GSR, developed in late 2005, provides a more accurate picture of the success student-athletes have in the classroom at NCAA member institutions. Based on the GSR, an amazing 98.4 percent (62 teams) of the women's teams graduated at least 50 percent of their basketball student-athletes. That compared to 64.1 percent (41 teams) of the men's teams."¹

In addition:

- 96.8 percent (61) of the women's teams compared to 51.6 percent (33) of the men's teams graduated at least 60 percent.
- 82.5 percent (52) of the women's teams compared to 37.5 percent (24) of the men's teams graduated at least 70 percent.
- No teams graduated less than 40 percent compared to **12** teams or **18.8** percent of the men's teams.

In spite of all the general progress with GSR data, Lapchick "remains alarmed at the persistent gap between African-American and white basketball student-athletes although it is far less severe among the women. The results for women once again stand in stark contrast to the men's teams."

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

- **85.5 percent** (53 schools) of the women's tournament teams graduated 70 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, **while 63.3 percent** (38 schools) graduated 70 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes **resulting in a 22.2 percentage point gap vs. a 38.1 percentage point gap for the men's teams.** Among the men's teams **68.3 percent** (41 schools) of the men's tournament teams graduated 70 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, **while only 30.2 percent** (19 schools) graduated 70 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes.
- **95.2 percent** (59 schools) of the women's tournament teams graduated 60 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, **while 85 percent** of schools (51 schools) graduated 60 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes **yielding only a 10.2 percentage point gap compared to the 35.7 percentage point gap for men.** Among the men's teams **81.7 percent** (49 schools) of the men's tournament teams graduated 60 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, **while only 46 percent** of schools (29 schools) graduated 60 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes.
- **100 percent** (62 schools) of the women's teams graduated 50 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, **and 93.3 percent** (56 schools) graduated 50 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes. **That left only a 6.7 percentage point gap for women and a 41 percentage point gap for men.** Among the men's teams **95 percent** (57 schools) graduated 50 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, **but only 54 percent** (34 schools) graduated 50 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes.
- **100 percent** (62 schools) of the women's teams graduated 40 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, **compared to the 93.3 percent** (56 schools) which graduated 40 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes, **only a 6.7 percentage point gap for women compared to a 30 percentage point gap for men.** Among the men's teams **95 percent** (57 schools) graduated 40 percent or more of their white basketball student-athletes, **compared to the 65 percent** (41 schools) which graduated 40 percent or more of their African-American basketball student-athletes.

Lapchick noted, "NCAA President Myles Brand has led the charge in recent years and the overall GSR shows that. Last April we released a study showing the substantial progress over 20 years in the graduation rates for African-American student-athletes."

Lapchick continued, “Race is an ongoing academic issue, reflected in the continued gap between graduation rates for white and African-American student-athletes. While rates for both groups have improved over the last few years, a significant disparity remains between graduation rates for white and African-American basketball student-athletes. Women are closing that gap. Basketball is a sport in which 44 percent of Division I female basketball student-athletes and 62.6 percent of the Division I male basketball student-athletes are African-American. White male basketball student-athletes graduate at 76 percent versus only 51 percent of African-American male basketball student-athletes. While white female basketball student-athletes graduate at 89 percent, 72 percent of African-American female basketball student-athletes graduate. These 25 and 17 percent disparities are alarming. But the fact that 72 percent of African-American women graduate is a huge step forward.”

“However, African-American male and female basketball players graduate at a higher rate than African-American males and females who are not student-athletes. The graduation rate for African-American male students as a whole is only 36 percent, versus the overall rate of 60 percent for male white students, which is a horrific 24 percentage point gap. The graduation rate for African-American female students as a whole is only 47 percent, versus the overall rate of 65 percent for female white students, which is a terrible 18 percentage point gap. One of the benefits of examining graduation rates is that they focus light on the fact that too many of our predominantly white campuses are not welcoming places for students of color, whether or not they are athletes.”

More distressing results are:

- The GSR data shows **13 women’s tournament teams** or 22 percent² have a 30 percentage point or greater gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American basketball student-athletes.
- The GSR data shows **29 men’s tournament teams** (49.2 percent) have a 30 percentage point or greater gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American basketball student-athletes.³
- **23 women’s teams** (39 percent) have a 20 percentage point or greater gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American basketball student-athletes.
- **41 men’s teams** (61.2 percent) have a 20 percentage point or greater gap between the graduation rates of white and African-American basketball student-athletes.
- Looking at all Division I teams, the disparity for GSR between whites and African-Americans is almost as troubling as there are 68 teams (25.5 percent) with at least a 30 percent difference; 93 teams (34.8 percent) with at least a 20 percent difference; and 116 teams (43.5 percent) with at least a 10 percent difference between white and African-American basketball student-athletes.⁴
- Looking at all Division I men’s teams, the disparity for GSR between whites and African-Americans is more troubling as there are 114 teams (40.3 percent) with at least a 30 percent difference; 148 teams (52.5 percent) with at least a 20 percent difference; and 180 teams (64 percent) with at least a 10 percent difference between white and African-American basketball student-athletes.⁵

Only Middle Tennessee State in the 2007 Women’s Basketball Tournament will be subject to contemporaneous penalties under the APR 925 “cut” score. Nine women’s teams (14.1 percent) did not receive a score of 925 or more on the NCAA’s APR. Among the 65 men’s teams, only Florida A&M, New Mexico State, and Texas A & M will be subject to

contemporaneous penalties under the 925 “cut” score. Twenty-six (26) teams or 40 percent did not receive a score of 925 or more on the NCAA’s APR. Due to the fact that APR rates have not yet been released for this year, the APR rates used in this study are the rates from last year. Lapchick said, “The GSR tells us far more than the new Academic Progress Rates. When we have enough data for the APRs, they will be most useful. We are not there yet.”

There is currently a margin of error used in the calculation that provides protection to certain institutions which have a small sample size of data or some teams who would have been subject to penalties by their APR scores, but did not have to take any actual penalties because they did not have any students leave ineligible in the last year or received a waiver from penalties. These margins of error will be eliminated when a four-year rolling average APR can be determined.

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. Lapchick said, “The APR reforms are more important than any previous attempt to help keep the student in the student-athlete.”

Lapchick added, “Myles Brand has made many breakthrough achievements as the head of the NCAA. I look forward to how he addresses this not only within athletics but with university presidents as a whole across their campuses to make all students of color more welcome. I hope all presidents, in turn, work within their own communities to improve school systems which are often under funded, under equipped, and do not have the best teachers.”

Lapchick concluded, “As always, there are schools that win big enough to be here in March *and* graduate their student-athletes. Three men’s teams (Florida, Holy Cross and Weber State) graduated 100 percent of their players. For the women, eight schools had a 100 percent graduation rate. They included: Belmont, Holy Cross, Marquette, Nebraska, Notre Dame, Tennessee, Vanderbilt, and Wisconsin-Green Bay. Holy Cross not only placed a men’s and women’s team in the tournament but also had a 100 percent graduation success rate for both teams. That should earn them high rankings for the NCAA’s incentives list.”

NCAA statistics were used in the study. The Institute reviewed 1999 – 00 graduation (six-year) rates, with a four class average (freshman classes of 1996 – 97, 1997 – 98, 1998 – 99, and 1999 – 00). That included the class that should have graduated within six years by 2005-06, the last period reported to the NCAA.

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.

Note: The women's and men's percentages were calculated as follows:

- Overall rates were based on 63 teams for women and 64 for men (Harvard and Penn, respectively, like other Ivy League Schools, do not report graduation rates).
- Rates for white student-athletes were based on 62 women's teams (Prairie View A&M had no white basketball student-athletes in the period under review) and 60 men's teams (Florida A&M, George Washington, Jackson State and Texas A&M Corpus Christi also had no white basketball student-athletes in the period under review).
- Rates for African-American student-athletes were based on 60 women's teams (BYU, Gonzaga and Wisconsin, Green Bay had no African-American basketball student-athletes in the NCAA from which the study's data was gathered) and 64 men's teams (Gonzaga had no African-American basketball student-athletes in the NCAA report from which the study's data was gathered).

¹ For the women's teams, Harvard did not report a GSR so the number of schools eligible is 63; among the men, Penn did not report so the pool of teams was 64.

² The statistical pool here was 59 schools, because five schools did not have data for either white or African-American student-athletes so they were omitted from the category.

³ The statistical pool here was 59 schools, because six schools did not have data for either white or African-American student-athletes so they were omitted from the category.

⁴ There are 58 schools that either didn't have an African-American or white student-athlete or did not report GSR rates on their team in this period leaving 267 schools in the statistical pool.

⁵ There are 45 schools that either didn't have an African-American or white student-athlete on their team in this period leaving 282 schools in the statistical pool.

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Academic Rates for 2007 Women's Teams in the NCAA Division I Basketball Tournament

School	GSR	Overall Basketball Student-Athlete	African-American Basketball Student-Athlete	White Basketball Student-Athlete	Overall Student-Athlete	APR
Arizona State		82	67	100	70	992
Baylor		92	100	75	88	966
Belmont		100	100	100	83	981
Boise State		83	67	88	71	982
Bowling Green		86	100	80	86	956
BYU		94	-	94	77	957
California		73	50	100	73	966
California, Riverside		86	100	67	71	957
Connecticut		91	75	100	76	957
Delaware		93	67	100	87	942
Delaware State		80	75	100	49	869+
DePaul		87	80	100	81	1000
Drake		92	100	91	83	957
Duke		91	75	100	97	989
East Carolina		94	100	75	81	926
Florida State		79	100	71	77	982
George Washington		93	80	100	93	974
Georgia		75	60	100	62	941
Georgia Tech		64	67	60	69	977
Gonzaga		92	-	100	85	991
Harvard		-	-	-	0	1000
Holy Cross		100	100	100	96	990
Idaho State		79	100	75	50	965

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School	GSR	Overall Basketball Student-Athlete	African-American Basketball Student-Athlete	White Basketball Student-Athlete	Overall Student-Athlete	APR
Iowa State	GSR	78	0	80	69	969
James Madison	GSR	94	83	100	84	946
Louisiana at Lafayette	GSR	69	70	50	61	876+
Louisville	GSR	75	60	80	68	990
LSU	GSR	62	63	50	69	933
Marist	GSR	92	100	91	87	991
Marquette	GSR	100	100	100	92	981
Maryland	GSR	71	67	100	76	944
Maryland, Baltimore County	GSR	87	100	80	85	941
Michigan State	GSR	80	50	90	81	955
Middle Tennessee	GSR	71	67	71	66	868
Mississippi	GSR	80	73	100	73	938
Nebraska	GSR	100	100	100	80	969
New Mexico	GSR	80	75	75	58	975
NC State	GSR	79	78	75	69	992
North Carolina	GSR	56	50	67	81	982
North Carolina-Asheville	GSR	80	75	80	78	972
Notre Dame	GSR	100	100	100	98	977
Ohio State	GSR	93	83	100	80	996
Oklahoma	GSR	79	67	100	67	957
Oklahoma State	GSR	85	78	100	70	921+
Old Dominion	GSR	67	56	100	73	963

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School	GSR	Overall Basketball Student-Athlete	African-American Basketball Student-Athlete	White Basketball Student-Athlete	Overall Student-Athlete	APR
Oral Roberts	GSR	65	60	73	75	889+
Pittsburgh	GSR	77	71	83	77	983
Prairie View A&M	GSR	63	63	-	61	951
Purdue	GSR	91	100	86	79	944
Robert Morris	GSR	93	100	89	96	955
Rutgers	GSR	73	80	100	75	946
Southeast Missouri State	GSR	64	60	67	65	870
Stanford	GSR	92	83	100	93	984
TCU	GSR	85	50	100	75	943
Texas A&M	GSR	63	36	100	72	942
Texas-Arlington	GSR	43	25	67	61	902+
Temple	GSR	94	86	100	70	923+
Tennessee	GSR	100	100	100	73	970
Tennessee, Chattanooga	GSR	70	86	58	54	990
Vanderbilt	GSR	100	100	100	93	941
Washington	GSR	92	100	100	82	988
West Virginia	GSR	64	80	60	70	915+
Wisconsin-Green Bay	GSR	100	-	100	93	985
Xavier	GSR	73	0	88	93	931

N/A - No Data Available

*Harvard does not report Graduation Rates

**Prairie View A&M had no white basketball student-athletes

***BYU, Gonzaga, and Wisconsin, Green Bay had no African-American basketball student-athletes