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Sent Via Email

November 9, 2017

Dr. Condoleezza Rice
Denning Professor in Global Business and the Economy
Stanford Graduate School of Business
Hoover Institution
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305-6010

Dear Dr. Rice,

The Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics met on Oct. 30, 2017 and received a report from NCAA President Mark Emmert that included information about the Commission on College Basketball.

The Knight Commission commended the NCAA for creating this independent group, and is appreciative that you have agreed to lead this important work.

This is to let you know that our co-chairs, Carol Cartwright and Arne Duncan, would appreciate speaking to you and/or your group to convey the principles and values that we believe should inform efforts to reform and strengthen Division I basketball. You may be aware that Jerry Porras served on the Knight Commission for 10 years, and two Knight Commission members, Bud Peterson and David Robinson, are also members of your group.

Over the years, the Knight Commission has helped propel major changes to better align the incentives in college sports with educational values, including the NCAA rule requiring teams to be on track to graduate at least half of their players to be eligible for postseason play, and the inclusion of substantial academic awards in the NCAA's revenue distribution.

However, as you know, many of the problems exposed in the current scandals have persisted for years, and have been topics of discussion at our public meetings, including a session with a college basketball coach, agent and former players just last [October](#). Another [public meeting we held last year](#) included an examination of amateurism issues and consideration of a [proposed model](#) that would eliminate some of the current restrictions on college athletes using their names, images or likenesses (NIL) for financial gain. The issues discussed in both meetings are part of the growing public debate on changes that should be considered.

Following our recent Oct. 30, 2017 meeting, we issued a [press release](#) that noted the following:

“The Commission meeting highlighted several broad areas of Division I basketball in need of far-reaching reform: Exploitation of college athletes by shoe companies and agents; the largely unregulated structure of non-scholastic youth basketball and its recruiting culture; and changes to the NCAA’s compliance and enforcement powers. Among other changes the Knight

Commission will explore are expanding the range of practices and tools for NCAA investigations, including subpoena power.”

In addition, the Commission made a specific recommendation to strengthen academic integrity by calling on the NCAA to modify a rule that now effectively allows an institution under investigation to make its own determination about the academic legitimacy of its courses. Such a modification could allow the NCAA to consider independent assessments, such as those made by accrediting agencies or state licensing bodies.

For your reference, a basketball brief is attached that summarizes some of the history relevant to the current issues and previous Knight Commission recommendations that aimed to address related problems. This brief was prepared as an internal background document for our members in conjunction with our Oct. 30 meeting.

We look forward to being in touch and please let us know if we can help in any way. I can be reached at 910.551.6809 and at perko@knightcommission.org.

Best regards,



Amy P. Perko
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Carol Cartwright
Arne Duncan
G.P. “Bud” Peterson
David Robinson

Attachment