



Knight Commission On Intercollegiate Athletics

A PROJECT OF THE JOHN S. AND JAMES L. KNIGHT FOUNDATION

Advancing Racial Equity in College Sports

In Honor of Black History Month

Issues and Solutions Update – February 2022



Racial Equity Research Grant Awardees

February 9, 2022

The Knight Commission announced the four research projects selected to share \$100,000 in funding to impact the Black athlete experience and athlete advocacy areas. The research projects support the goals outlined in the 2021 *"Achieving Racial Equity in College Sports"* report.

[Learn More Here](#)

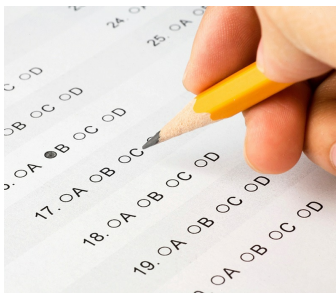


CoSIDA Diversity & Inclusion Fellowship

February 7, 2022

The Knight Commission is sponsoring the College Sports Information Directors of America's new Diversity and Inclusion Fellowship program. The fellowship will encourage and educate athletics communications offices at all levels to become effective champions for diversity, equity and inclusion in college athletics.

[Learn More Here](#)



Proposal to Drop Test Score from Initial-Eligibility Requirements Advances

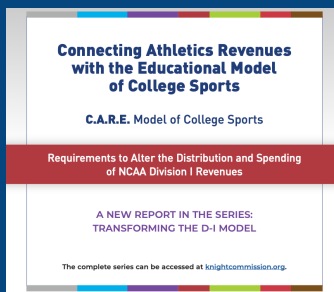
February 16, 2022

The Knight Commission commends the work of the NCAA Standardized Test Score Task Force and its recommendation to eliminate standardized test scores as a criterion for initial eligibility in Divisions I and II athletics.

In its May 2021 *"Achieving Racial Equity in College Sports"* report, the Knight Commission recommended this and other actions to close the educational opportunity gaps and to create equitable pathways for Black college athletes' success during and after college.

The Commission appreciated the opportunity to present to the NCAA's Task Force during its deliberations and looks forward to a positive outcome as the task force proposal advances through the NCAA legislative process.

[Learn More Here](#)



Advancing Racial Equity in College Sports within our Proposed Financial CA.R.E. Model

The Knight Commission's proposed financial C.A.R.E. Model embeds five principles central to the educational model of college sports in the distributions and uses of more than \$3.5 billion annually in Division I shared athletics revenues.

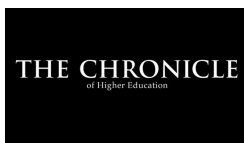
One of the overarching principles—transparency—will advance racial equity in college sports by shedding light on important demographics, which are currently collected, but not publicly disclosed, by Division I institutions.

Principle of Transparency

Division I institutions receiving shared revenue distributions “should be required to publicly disclose gender and ethnicity demographics of athletics program athletes and staff.”

[Learn More Here](#)

Media Articles This Month



The Chronicle of Higher Ed *February 11, 2022*

“... 'One of the problems is that those in decision-making positions have punted on the hard choices' ...

While presidents have been seen as dragging their feet on athletic reforms, they may also fear any national approach that could curtail their competitiveness and, more importantly, their profits.

'Institutions want autonomy in dealing with their finances, so there is going to be resistance to any rules or framework that would address how they use their revenues.'...” ***Knight Commission CEO Amy Perko***

[Read Here.](#)



Forbes *January 31, 2022*

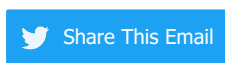
“... Concept #1-Revenue sharing

The Commission is proposing that as increasing revenues come into college athletics, those 'revenues should be targeted toward spending that supports athlete health and safety issues' ... ”

Knight Commission Member Jonathan Mariner

“Concept #2-hard and soft 'salary' caps, along with luxury taxes
College football should incentivize a *spending and reward system* that places a “luxury tax” on items like salaries, while not penalizing spending (or capping) areas that support athlete health, safety and wellness. ...”

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