



Knight Commission On Intercollegiate Athletics

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

Panelists Bios and Session Summaries October 9, 2025

Session 1: Senator Cantwell Discusses the Student Athlete Fairness and Enforcement (SAFE) Act

During this session, Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) will discuss the [recently released SAFE Act](#), which she introduced with Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT).

Senator Maria Cantwell – Maria Cantwell has served the State of Washington as U.S. Senator for 24 years and is the Ranking Member of the powerful Commerce Committee, which oversees sports. As a long-time champion for athlete rights, Sen. Cantwell authored the landmark Equal Pay for Team USA law. On September 29, 2025, Sen. Cantwell introduced the SAFE Act with Sens. Booker and Blumenthal, to codify athletes' rights and protections in law, expand revenue for all schools, bolster women's and Olympic sports and bring much-needed stability to the college sports system. Sen. Cantwell has also highlighted concerns about the SCORE Act and its impact on athletes, mid-sized schools and the future of non-revenue generating sports.

Session 2: Division I Leaders Survey Results Released

The session will reveal the results of a national survey of Division I presidents, athletics directors, and other campus leaders on key issues in college sports. The survey was conducted by Elon University Poll in partnership with the Knight Commission.

Presenters: **Beth Brooke**, Knight Commission member; **Jason Husser**, Director, Elon University Poll; **Amy Privette Perko**, CEO, Knight Commission; **Peter Roby**, Knight Commission member.

Session 3: Expert Panel on Solutions in the New Division I Era

During this session, experts will discuss solutions being considered by leaders in higher education, sports, and government.

Cody Campbell – Cody Campbell is the Co-Founder and Co-CEO of Double Eagle Energy Holdings, an upstream E&P company. As a graduate of and former offensive lineman at Texas Tech, and the current Chair of the Texas Tech University Board of Regents, Campbell attributes his personal and professional success to the lessons he learned as a collegiate athlete. Campbell is the founder of Saving College Sports, a 501(c)(4) organization dedicated to promoting public policies that protect opportunities in all collegiate sports. In July 2025, Campbell was appointed to the President's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition.

Brandon Copeland – Brandon Copeland (Cope) is the Co-Founder and CEO of Athletes.org, an entity created to educate, organize and represent its members by negotiating and maximizing the terms of their collegiate athletic experience. Copeland is a ten-year NFL veteran. Copeland played football at the University of Pennsylvania where he was the solo captain of the 2012 Ivy League championship winning team. He graduated from the Wharton School with a Bachelor of Science in economics. Copeland has dedicated his career to making financial knowledge more accessible. His contributions include serving on CNBC's Global Financial Wellness Council, teaching at Penn, and speaking at events nationwide.

Session 4: Discussion with NCAA Vice President Tim Buckley regarding College Sports Federal Legislation

Tim Buckley - Tim Buckley began his role as senior vice president of external affairs on March 1, 2023. Buckley, who has more than 15 years of experience in government relations, political communications and public affairs strategy, oversees the Association's government relations and communications efforts to strengthen relationships with key constituents at the state and federal levels. Buckley also engages membership, media, policymakers, coalitions and other stakeholders to advance the NCAA's mission and goals.