



Knight Commission
On Intercollegiate Athletics

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

NCAA CONVENTION SESSION

**OVERLOOKED & CHANGING REALITIES:
What You Need to Know About the
House Settlement**

PANEL DISCUSSION AND Q&A

Register to attend in-person or virtually via Zoom

This session will clarify common misperceptions of the key legal, financial, and operational issues related to implementing the *House v. NCAA* settlement. Topics will include some of the most misunderstood impacts, unresolved issues, financial implications, and essential information for decision-makers—especially at institutions with a choice to “opt-in” to the *House* terms.

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CT (12:00-1:00 p.m. ET)

Delta Island ABC Room

Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville, Tennessee

Light refreshments will be available.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR JANUARY 15 SESSION](#)



Big Sky Conference Achieves Knight Commission C.A.R.E. Champion Distinction

The Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics announced the Big Sky Conference as an inaugural C.A.R.E. Champion following the league's adoption and implementation of all requirements to receive the distinction. A **C.A.R.E. Champion** **C**onnects **A**thletics **R**evenues with the **E**ducational mission of college sports by prioritizing college athletes' education, health, safety, well-being, equity, and opportunity in financial incentives and athletics spending.

The Big Sky Conference joins the **Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference** and **The Southern Conference** as inaugural **C.A.R.E. Champions**.

"On behalf of our membership, the Big Sky Conference is proud to receive this distinction for adopting and implementing the Knight Commission's C.A.R.E. Model principles," said Commissioner Tom Wistrull. "This is a tremendous milestone for our league and its 12 member institutions as we remain deeply committed to supporting approximately 3,200 student-athletes each year in their academic and athletic endeavors. Our slogan, Experience Elevated, is not just a hashtag – and the C.A.R.E. Model is yet another way for us to demonstrate how we continue to align our actions with our mission and values."

Knight Commission Co-Chair Pamela Bernard said, "Earning the C.A.R.E. Champion designation demonstrates the priority the Big Sky places on college athletes' education, gender equity, and opportunity. We congratulate the Big Sky Conference for its leadership."

Read the full release [here](#).

Application of Title IX to Athlete Revenue Sharing

Our NCAA Convention session will discuss one of the most significant questions institutional leaders face about implementing new athlete payments and benefits – the application of Title IX.

Under the law and current guidance from the Office of Civil Rights (OCR), Title IX applies to *any* institutionally-provided financial benefits. Any differences between those benefits among genders would require justification through non-discriminatory factors.

During the Knight Commission's September 18 meeting, Title IX expert and attorney Janet Judge said: "...In short, I believe the question is not whether Title IX applies, but rather how Title IX will apply."

Judge cautioned schools as they determine their approach to athlete revenue-sharing and clarified that the preliminarily-approved settlement damages formula does not apply:

"Past damages allocation decisions are being made by the Plaintiff's attorneys, according to their valuation of the individual antitrust claims of their clients under the cases at bar, none of which include Title IX claims. Accordingly, Title IX does not govern how the past damages claims will be disbursed and as a result, it is reported that approximately 85 percent to 90 percent of those dollars will be allocated to male athletes.

For these reasons, Plaintiff's attorney's decisions regarding past damages allocations are not being reviewed by Judge Wilken with an eye toward Title IX compliance and are not receiving any sort of Title IX approval by the Court.

As such, the past damages allocation framework should not be relied upon as setting the standard for satisfying a school's Title IX obligations moving forward when considering prospective fund payment allocations."

The NCAA Convention session will explore the potential Title IX implications of institutions providing billions in new post-House athlete benefits.

"...In short, I believe the question is not *whether* Title IX applies, but rather *how* Title IX will apply."

JANET JUDGE
Title IX expert, attorney, & panelist,
Knight Commission Public Meeting



KNIGHT COMMISSION IN THE NEWS



Institutions in C.A.R.E. Champion Conferences Highlight Recognition and Grant

Institutions in each of the C.A.R.E. Champion conferences promote their C.A.R.E. Champion recognition and use of C.A.R.E. Model grants. See links for institutional releases and stories: [Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference](#) — [Canisius](#), [Fairfield](#), [Iona](#), [Manhattan](#), [Marist](#), [Quinnipiac](#), [Rider](#), [Saint Peter's](#), and [Siena](#); [Big Sky Conference](#) — [Northern Colorado](#); and [The Southern Conference](#) — [Chattanooga](#), [East Tennessee State](#), [Mercer](#), [Samford](#), [Western Carolina](#), [Wofford](#), [The Chattanooga](#).



[Read full article here.](#)

"What Do Boards Need to Know About Changes in College Athletics?"

TRUSTEESHIP MAGAZINE | Sept./Oct. 2024

In the September/October 2024 edition of AGB's Trusteeship magazine, CEO Amy Privette Perko is asked: "What Do Boards Need to Know About Changes in College Athletics?" The interview covers the proposed terms of the *House v. NCAA* settlement and the differing potential impacts across Division I institutions that university trustees should understand.

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[Read full article here.](#)

Access may be limited to subscribers.

"House V NCAA Settlement Proposal Looms, Leaving Title IX, Athlete Employment Questions Unresolved"

FORBES | Sept. 24, 2024

Higher education expert Karen Weaver featured panelists' insights from the Knight Commission's Fall 2024 meeting in her *Forbes* piece that examines "the sobering reality" of the hard decisions that university administrators face with the proposed terms of the *House v. NCAA* settlement and separate athlete employment litigation.

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