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Keeping Score When It Counts: **Assessing the 2009-10 Bowl-bound College Football Teams –** **Academic Performance Improves but Race Still Matters**

Orlando, FL...December 7, 2009 – Overall academic progress continued while the gap between white and African-American football student-athletes increased slightly for the 67* Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) schools (formerly known as Division I-A schools) playing in this year's college football bowl games according to a study released today by The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) at the University of Central Florida.

Richard Lapchick, the Director of TIDES and the primary author of the study ***Keeping Score When It Counts: Assessing the 2009-10 Bowl-bound College Football Teams – Academic Performance Improves but Race Still Matters***, noted that, "The academic success of big time college student-athletes that grew continuously under the leadership of the late Dr. Myles Brand continued this year and will be part of his legacy. The new study shows additional progress and reinforces the success of Dr. Brand's academic reform package. This year, 91 percent (61 of the 67 schools), the same as in the 2008-09 report and up from 88 percent in the 2007-08 report, had at least a 50 percent graduation rate for their football teams; approximately 90 percent of the teams received a score of more than 925 on the NCAA's Academic Progress Rate (APR) versus 88 percent in the 2008-09 report."

The NCAA created the APR in 2004 as part of an academic reform package designed to more accurately measure student-athlete's academic success as well as improve graduation rates at member institutions.

Lapchick added that, "In spite of the good news, the study showed that the disturbing gap between white and African-American football student-athletes remains a major issue; 21 teams or 31 percent of the bowl-bound schools graduated less than half of their African-American football student-athletes, while only two schools graduated less than half of their white football student-athletes."

The wide gap between white and African-American football student-athletes' graduation success rates grew in spite of the slight progress with overall graduation rates. Lapchick said, "Each year the most troubling information in the graduation success rate study is the disparity between the GSR of African-American and white football student-athletes. This year, the GSR for African-American football student-athletes is 59 percent, which is identical to the 2008-09 report. The GSR for white football student-athletes went from 76 percent in 2008-09 to 77 percent this year. This resulted in a one percent increase in the gap (17 to 18 percent). The overall football student-athlete GSR improved slightly from 65.3 to 65.7 percent."

Lapchick noted, “It must be emphasized that African-American and white football players graduate at a higher rate than their male non-athletic peers in the student body. The graduation rate for African-American male students as a whole is only 38 percent, in comparison to the 62 percent graduation rate for white male students – an unacceptable 24 percent gap.”

Among the disturbing figures in the study that further show an increase in the disparity between white and African-American football student-athletes are the following:

- 57 schools (up from 56 in 2008-09) or 85 percent had graduation success rates of 66 percent or higher for white football student-athletes, which was more than 2.8 times the number of schools with equivalent graduation success rates for African-American football student-athletes (20 schools or 30 percent).
- 21 schools (up from 19 in 2008-09) or 31 percent graduated less than 50 percent of their African-American football student-athletes, while only two schools graduated less than 50 percent of their white football student-athletes.
- Seven schools (up from five schools in 2008-09) or 10 percent graduated less than 40 percent of their African-American football student-athletes, while **no** school graduated less than 40 percent of their white football student-athletes.
- 14 schools (up from 12 schools in 2008-09) or 21 percent had graduation success rates for African-American football student-athletes that were at least 30 percent lower than their rates for white football student-athletes.
- 35 schools (up from 29 schools in 2008-09) or 52 percent had graduation success rates for African-American football student-athletes that were at least 20 percent lower than their rates for white football student-athletes.

Four schools had graduation success rates for African-American football student-athletes that exceeded their rates for white football student-athletes: Connecticut (five percent higher), Troy (seven percent higher), Southern Miss (eight percent higher), and Rutgers (four percent higher). That was down from five schools in the 2008-09 study.

Only Texas Tech and Troy had overall graduation success rates for football players that were better than the overall student-athletes' GSR. Only Cincinnati and Connecticut had equivalent graduation success rates between the football players and overall student-athletes.

Lapchick highlighted that, “If there were a national championship based on graduation success rates among bowl teams, Navy and Northwestern would have played for the National Championship. Both teams graduated at least 92 percent of all football student-athletes and at least 83 percent of African-American football student-athletes. If there were a national championship based on APR scores, Stanford and Air Force would battle each other with APR scores of 984 and 983, respectively.”

Five conferences distinguished themselves from all of the FBS conferences represented in the APR study. The Atlantic Coast Conference, Big Ten, and Pac 10 are all represented by two teams in the top 10 APR scores. The Atlantic Coast Conference and the Big 12 had all seven of their bowl-bound member institutions receive an APR score greater than 925. Conference USA also joined the category with all six of its bowl bound member institutions receiving an APR score greater than 925.

NCAA statistics were used in this study. The Institute reviewed data collected by the NCAA from member institutions for the graduation rate study. The Institute reviewed 2002-03 graduation (six-year) rates,

with a four-class average (freshmen classes of 1999-00, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03). The study was co-authored by Austin Moss and Brian Hoff.

The APR holds each team accountable for the success of student-athletes in the classroom and their progression towards graduation. Individual teams are penalized if they fall below an APR score of 925, which is an expected graduation rate of 50 percent of its student-athletes. As of now, scholarship reductions are the only penalties: up to 10 percent of scholarships can be taken away. Over time, historical penalties will be put into place for schools who continue to fall below the 925 APR. Of the seven bowl-bound teams below the 925 score this year, only Minnesota, Mississippi, and Bowling Green will be subject to contemporaneous penalties by the NCAA.

The APR data does not include data from the 2008-09 academic performances of the teams in the study but instead uses four years of data ending in the 2007-08 school year.

The Institute has taken the position that Federal Graduation Rates (FGR) gives an unfair depiction of a school because it does not account for transfer students. A student-athlete who transfers in good standing and graduates at another institution counts as a non-graduate at the initial school. The FGR also does not count a junior college student who transfers into a four-year college and graduates as a graduate or a former student-athlete who returns and graduates more than six years after original enrollment. The Institute supports the NCAA's use of the Graduation Success Rates (GSR), developed in 2005, which accounts for these factors, as a better way to fairly measure the results.

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) 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 nationally recognized Racial and Gender Report Card, an assessment of hiring practices in coaching and sport management. Additionally, The Institute conducts diversity management training in conjunction with the National Consortium for Academics and Sports. The Institute also will monitor some of the critical ethical issues in college and professional sport, including the potential for the 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 Eagle Bank Bowl will select a team to play against Temple at the conclusion of Army's season on December 12, 2009. Therefore, this study includes the 67 teams selected for bowl games thus far. Once the 68th team has been selected, the updated numbers will be available online at <http://www.tidesport.org>

Academic Rates for Teams in the 2009 - 2010 NCAA Division Bowl Games						
Bowl Name	Participants	APR	Graduation Success Rates (GSR)			
			Overall Football Student-Athlete	African-American Football Student-Athlete	White Football Student-Athlete	Overall Student-Athlete
BCS National Championship	Alabama	955	67	63	77	82
	Texas	939	49	37	69	70
Allstate Sugar Bowl	Cincinnati	947	75	64	88	75
	Florida	963	69	69	71	85
FedEx Orange Bowl	Georgia Tech	957	49	41	73	71
	Iowa	946	74	69	86	85
Tostitos Fiesta Bowl	Boise State	966	58	50	62	70
	TCU	962	65	58	75	77
Rose Bowl Game Presented by Citi	Ohio State	968	62	53	75	78
	Oregon	935	49	39	70	74
GMAC Bowl	Central Michigan	930	71	61	86	82
	Troy	945	83	84	77	80
International Bowl	South Florida	909	60	53	80	78
	Northem Illinois	947	73	73	77	82
Capital One Bowl	Penn State	976	85	84	89	89
	LSU	960	60	50	78	71
Konica Minolta Gator Bowl	Florida State	932	73	67	89	79
	West Virginia	939	61	56	67	69
Outback Bowl	Northwestern	973	92	90	93	97
	Auburn	949	59	48	94	78
AT&T Cotton Bowl	Oklahoma State	939	61	56	63	76
	Mississippi	910	69	60	94	78
Roady's Humanitarian Bowl	Idaho	905	69	63	69	79
	Bowling Green	920	73	67	95	86
Chick-fil-A Bowl	Tennessee	949	52	49	64	76
	Virginia Tech	932	71	70	71	85
Meineke Car Care Bowl	North Carolina	947	80	75	90	87
	Pittsburgh	944	68	58	81	83
Valero Alamo Bowl	Texas Tech	935	69	56	84	67
	Michigan State	931	56	45	71	80
Champs Sports Bowl	Miami (FL)	977	75	65	100	82
	Wisconsin	953	65	54	81	80
Insight Bowl	Iowa State	935	64	44	90	78
	Minnesota	915	54	39	79	70
AutoZone Liberty Bowl	Arkansas	927	52	40	78	78
	East Carolina	932	72	64	88	76
Brut Sun Bowl	Oklahoma	952	45	43	47	70
	Stanford	984	89	79	97	94

Academic Rates for Teams in the 2009 - 2010 NCAA Division Bowl Games (continued)						
Bowl Name	Participants	APR	Graduation Success Rates (GSR)			
			Overall Football Student-Athlete	African-American Football Student-Athlete	White Football Student-Athlete	Overall Student-Athlete
Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl	Kentucky	948	55	53	59	73
	Clemson	955	67	66	70	82
Texas Bowl	Navy	978	93	83	97	98
	Missouri	951	64	57	80	75
Pacific Life Holiday Bowl	Nebraska	950	72	59	82	75
	Arizona	924	41	33	44	61
Independence Bowl	Georgia	976	57	48	83	75
	Texas A&M	946	55	48	74	71
Emerald Bowl	Boston College	970	91	85	95	96
	USC	956	58	51	65	74
Little Caesars Bowl	Marshall	939	72	65	80	76
	Ohio	949	76	66	87	84
Sheraton Hawaii Bowl	Nevada	945	57	39	79	73
	SMU	947	79	77	80	89
Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl	Air Force	983	87	81	88	90
	Houston	942	53	46	70	71
New Mexico Bowl	Fresno State	948	46	39	59	60
	Wyoming	939	54	44	59	73
Papajohns.com Bowl	Connecticut	951	82	88	83	82
	South Carolina	929	60	52	86	74
R&L Carriers New Orleans Bowl	Middle Tennessee State	945	56	57	59	77
	Southern Miss	944	84	86	78	85
Pioneer Las Vegas Bowl	BYU	942	61	47	71	82
	Oregon St	930	57	48	71	76
San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl	Utah	954	57	48	82	76
	California	970	64	62	69	80
Eagle Bank Bowl	Temple UCLA/Army	891	50	33	71	70
St. Petersburg	UCF	960	56	50	72	76
	Rutgers	980	81	82	78	84
	2009-10 Averages	APR 946.7	Overall Football Student-Athlete 65.7	African-American Football Student-Athlete 58.6	White Football Student-Athlete 77.4	Overall Student-Athlete 78.4

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