



Institute Study by Lapchick Looks at APR Rates and Graduation Rates for 2005 06 Bowl-Bound Teams *Significant Gap Between African-American and White Student-athletes remains*

ORLANDO, FL...December 5, 2005 – Of the 56 Division I-A football teams selected to participate in the upcoming bowl games, 23 teams or 41 percent of the total did not receive a score of more than 925 on the NCAA's Academic Progress Rate (APR) reported on August 22, 2005, according to a study released today by the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida. In also examining graduation rates for the same teams, 27 schools or 49 percent did not have a 50 percent graduation rate for their football teams. The NCAA created the APR in 2004. It was an integral piece of the extensive academic reform package developed to more accurately measure student-athletes' success in the classroom and increase the graduation rates at member institutions.

Richard Lapchick, who authored the study as director of the Institute, also is Eminent Scholar Chair of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program at the UCF. Lapchick said that "We still have the lingering and profound problem of too many of our student-athletes not getting on track to complete their education. This is the first time we have used the APR as a guide for the annual study of the academic progress of the bowl-bound teams. With 41 percent not achieving the NCAA's cut score and 49 percent having a graduation rate below 50 percent, it shows we still have a long way to go."

A key feature of the APR holds each team accountable for the success of student-athletes in the classroom and the progression they make towards graduation. Beginning in the 2005 – 06 academic year, individual teams will be subject to scholarship penalties if they receive an APR score of less than 925 and if a student-athlete leaves the institution in poor academic standing. The APR score of 925 was established as the "cut" score because it represents an expected graduation rate of 50 percent of student-athletes. Therefore, 23 schools (41 percent) of bowl-bound teams are not expected to graduate at least 50 percent of their student-athletes.

Lapchick went on that "these new reforms are a critical move by the NCAA because they allow the NCAA to penalize schools that do not meet the 50 percent graduation rate standard while rewarding those that deliver the promise of education to student-athletes. Those 33 bowl-bound schools that met the cut score have delivered. We should all wait and see what the updated APR related due in 2006 show. They have been submitted to the NCAA and will show how the schools are doing with some time to adjust. That will be an even more important test."

Up to this point, the studies of the bowl-bound teams by the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport have been based on graduation rates. The data for graduation rates supplied by the NCAA was of previous year's teams and student-athletes who transferred out of the school in good academic standing or turned pro early counted against the school. Junior college transfers who came and graduated did not count for the school. The APR had corrected those measures. Lapchick warned, however, that looking at APR rates alone leaves out a critical category. "Each year the most disturbing point of the graduation rate study was the disparity between the graduation rates between African-American and white football student-athletes. The APR statistics do not account for that. If we look at the graduation rates, 37 or 67 percent of the bowl-bound schools graduated less than half of their African-American football student-athletes, a disparity that has persisted for years.

Lapchick said, "Race remains a persistent academic issue, reflected in the continuing gap between graduation rates for white and African-American student-athletes. The significant gap between rates for white and African-American football players has to continue to receive scrutiny. Solely examining the APR rates does not provide this window which is why we continue to look at graduation rates in spite of their limitations."

"Overall at the 117 Division 1A schools, 63 percent of white football student-athletes graduated versus only 47 percent of African-American football student-athletes. However, it must be noted that both 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 40 percent, in comparison to the 61 percent graduation rate for white male students – this gap remains scandalous at 21 percent."

Lapchick maintained, "One of the benefits of examining graduation rates is that it focuses attention on the fact that too many of our predominantly white campuses are not welcoming places for students of color, regardless of whether they are athletes."

Among the bowl-bound teams, the following results were found:

Of the bowl-bound schools, 16 (29 percent) had graduation rates of 66 percent or higher for white football student-athletes, which was more than 2.5 times the number of schools with equivalent graduation rates for African-American football student-athletes (six schools or 11 percent).

Looking at schools with graduation rates of 50 percent or higher, nearly 2.5 times as many met this benchmark for white football student-athletes (47 schools or 85 percent) than for African-American football student-athletes (19 schools or 35 percent).

More than three times as many schools (23 schools or 42 percent) graduated 40 percent or less of their African-American football student-athletes, while 7 schools graduated 40 percent or less of their white football student-athletes.

Additional findings include the following:

10 schools (18 percent) had graduation rates for African-American football student-athletes that were at least 30 percent lower than the rates for white football student-athletes.

28 schools (51 percent) had graduation rates for African-American football student-athletes that were at least 20 percent lower than the rates for white football student-athletes.

Only 10 schools had graduation rates for African-American football student-athletes that exceeded the rates for white football student-athletes: South Florida (21 percent higher); Rutgers (12 percent higher); Houston and Tulsa (each 6 percent higher); Northwestern (5 percent higher); Fresno State, Nevada, and UTEP (each four percent higher); Southern Miss (3 percent higher); and BYU (2 percent higher).

While there were teams that scored poorly, some schools were notable for their high football student-athlete graduation rates: 14 schools had graduation rates for football players that were better than for overall students, and six schools had graduation rates for football players that were better than for overall student-athletes.

Lapchick noted, "If there were a national championship for graduation rates among bowl teams, Northwestern and Boston College would have played for the National Championship. Both teams graduated at least 78 percent of all football student-athletes and at least 74 percent of African-American football student-athletes. If there were a national championship game based on APR rates, Navy and Rutgers would have played. *Note: Navy does not report graduation rates for student-athletes and, therefore, percentages calculated were based on the 55 teams that had reported graduation rates.*

Three conferences distinguished themselves from all of the Division I-A football conferences represented in the APR study. Two conferences, the Atlantic Coast Conference and the Big East Conference, had every one of its bowl-bound member institutions, 8 and 4 respectively, receive an APR score greater than 925. Of the top ten APR schools who are bowl-bound, these two conferences collectively represented 5 teams (Rutgers, Boston College, University of Virginia, University of South Florida, and University of Louisville).

Among the bowl-eligible teams, the following results were found:

Of the 23 bowl-bound teams that received an APR score less than 925, 14 (61 percent) were members of BCS conferences.

All 8 members of the Atlantic Coast Conference and all 4 members of the Big East Conference were in the top 25 of APR bowl-bound school rankings.

The Pacific-10 Conference on the other hand, had 5 schools chosen for bowl games, all of which received an APR score less than 925.

NCAA statistics were used in the study. The Institute reviewed data collected from member institutions for the academic years of 2003 – 04 and 2004 – 05. *Please note: The NCAA will begin to use data from a four-class average in the Fall of 2007 to calculate the APR.* NCAA statistics were used for the graduation rate study. The Institute reviewed 1997-98 graduation (six-year) rates, with a four-class average (freshmen classes of 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98). *Please note: The Institute believes that the way graduation rates are currently compiled unfairly penalizes a school when a student-athlete transfers in good standing and receives a degree at another institution. We support the NCAA's current initiative to redefine how graduation rates are calculated.*

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport 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 Sport. 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.

APPENDIX

Bowl Name	Participants	APR Score	Football Student-athlete	Graduation Rates (%)			
				African-American Football Student-athlete	White Football Student-athlete	Overall Student-Athlete	Overall Student
The Rose Bowl Game Presented by Citi	USC	910+	58	52	65	62	76
	Texas	934	34	33	36	57	70
FedEx Orange Bowl	Penn State	928	74	72	76	80	81
	Florida State	948	49	43	71	60	62
Nokia Sugar Bowl	West Virginia	938	46	33	56	56	55
	Georgia	930	53	40	73	58	69
Tostitos Fiesta Bowl	Notre Dame	934	77	76	76	87	94
	Ohio State	892	52	43	63	63	58
Capital One Bowl	Wisconsin	916+	56	45	65	71	76
	Auburn	963	48	40	74	54	67
Toyota Gator Bowl	Louisville	950	35	27	53	45	33
	Virginia Tech	944	58	54	64	68	73
Outback Bowl	Iowa	949	58	38	64	69	64
	Florida	942	42	36	56	55	73
AT&T Cotton Bowl	Texas Tech	919+	60	50	73	56	51
	Alabama	886	49	45	63	56	61
EV1.net Houston Bowl	TCU	945	63	63	65	64	64
	Iowa State	938	51	36	63	59	64
AutoZone Liberty Bowl	Tulsa	943	60	65	59	68	58
	Fresno State	939	40	43	39	42	43
Meineke Car Care Bowl	South Florida	965	58	71	50	54	47
	NC State	935	42	36	54	56	62
Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl	Miami	946	57	56	57	57	65
	Louisiana State	923+	42	35	61	55	55
Independence Bowl	South Carolina	924+	54	52	57	56	59
	Missouri	907+	44	39	50	63	64
Vitalis Sun Bowl	Northwestern	971	83	90	85	87	92
	UCLA	890	55	47	66	61	83

			Graduation Rates (%)				
Bowl Name	Participants	APR Score	Football Student-athlete	African-American Football Student-athlete	White Football Student-athlete	Overall Student-Athlete	Overall Student
Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl	Minnesota	923+	41	27	60	58	52
	Virginia	972	75	63	93	82	92
Pacific Life Holiday Bowl	Oregon	893	68	52	79	67	59
	Oklahoma	929	40	35	48	53	52
Emerald Bowl	Georgia Tech	942	49	43	63	58	68
	Utah	929	41	31	38	56	51
MasterCard Alamo Bowl	Michigan	949	57	47	70	74	84
	Nebraska	929	63	48	70	59	54
MPC Computers Bowl	Boise State	922+	54	50	61	58	26
	Boston College	978	78	74	82	81	87
Insight Bowl	Arizona State	887	44	34	59	56	50
	Rutgers	980	49	56	44	67	73
Champs Sports Bowl	Clemson	942	51	35	77	59	71
	Colorado	936	43	29	60	53	66
Motor City Bowl	Memphis	960	40	29	59	45	33
	Akron	923+	50	28	66	52	38
Sheraton Hawaii Bowl	Nevada	892	40	40	36	47	48
	UCF	880	34	26	53	46	51
Fort Worth Bowl	Kansas	899	46	34	64	64	57
	Houston	893	38	41	35	44	37
San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl	Colorado Sate	934	50	32	63	61	63
	Navy	992	-	-	-	0	85
Pioneer PureVision Las Vegas Bowl	BYU	920+	19	22	20	54	72
	California	924+	48	42	59	66	84
GMAC Bowl	UTEP	921+	34	38	34	38	25
	Toledo	864	62	56	77	57	39
New Orleans Bowl	Southern Miss	967	66	67	64	60	53
	Arkansas State	912+	38	29	54	47	35