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PRESS RELEASE

College Sport Research Institute Releases Initial Adjusted Graduation Gap (AGG) Results

Study Reveals Large Gaps between Graduation Rates of Full-time Students and College Football and Men's Basketball Players

Chapel Hill, NC, April 20, 2010 - The College Sport Research Institute released its initial **2010 Adjusted Graduation Gap (AGG)** report today. Based on the AGG, there is an overall adjusted graduation gap of **-18.9** between Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) football players (**54.8**) and full-time male college students (**73.7**). The gap between men's basketball players (**44.6**) and full-time male college students (**75.7**) is even larger (**-31.1**). For National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) FBS football and NCAA D-I men's basketball, the Mid-American Conference (**-10.7** in football) and Conference USA (**-21.1** in basketball) have the smallest gaps, while the conferences with the largest AGG disparities are the Pac-10 Conference (**-30.1** in football) and the Atlantic Coast Conference (**-41.5** in men's basketball).

The AGG is a CSRI research initiative, under the direction of Dr. Richard M. Southall, Director of The College Sport Research Institute, and Dr. E. Woodrow Eckard, Professor of Economics at the University of Colorado-Denver. The initial AGG Report, comparing full-time students (adjusted for the percentage of part-time students in the general student body) and full-time football and men's basketball players from NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) and NCAA D-I conferences, will be presented at the 3rd Annual [Scholarly Conference on College Sport](#), Friday, April 23 at 9:30am at the William and Ida Friday Center on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Southall, noted, "This research is not intended to challenge, refute, or replace any graduation rate reports or methods currently used by any group, including federal government or the NCAA. Instead, it is a new method to compare college-athlete graduation rates to those of other full-time students. The AGG is intended to encourage research and dialogue surrounding college-athletes' graduation rates and overall educational experience."

In 1990, Congress mandated the full disclosure of graduation rates at schools that award athletically-related aid and receive federal financial aid. The Federal Graduation Rate (FGR) reports the percentage of students (athletes and non-athletes) who graduate within six years from the school they entered as a first-year student. The FGR measures how well college and university athletic programs retain the athletes they recruit, thus providing one measure of how well schools are fulfilling the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) mission of maintaining athletes as an integral part of the student body. The strength of the FGR is its focus on student retention.

Another useful measure of graduation rates for athletes is the Graduation Success Rate (GSR). The GSR, a creation of the NCAA, excludes from its calculation of graduation rates those athletes—transfers are an example—who left a school, but in good academic standing. The NCAA methodology also includes athletes who transfer into an institution in its graduation rate. A major strength of the GSR - when compared to the FGR - is its recognition that athletes often take a different path to graduation than other students. As yet, there is no way to calculate the GSR of the general student body.

The College Sport Research Institute (CSRI) believes in the full disclosure of both the FGR and the GSR, since one measure is not inherently better or somehow fairer than the other. They simply measure different things. The FGR focuses on an institution's ability to retain the students it admits, while the GSR attempts to account for athletes who leave a school that recruited them.

GSRs for this year's NCAA tournament teams have been widely reported in the press ([Graduation Rates for 2010 NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament Teams](#)). In addition, the NCAA prepares a Graduation Rate Report for each member institution, available on the NCAA website ([NCAA GSR Data](#)) based on data supplied by member institutions. The reports include rates for the general undergraduate student body and for athletes. The NCAA also publishes reports with the percentage of part time students at each member institution.

The standard evaluations of NCAA student-athlete graduation rates involve comparisons with rates for the general student body. The general student body rates, however, include a significant number of part-time students at many schools. This is problematic since by NCAA bylaws athletes must be "full-time" students. Therefore, it is most appropriate that athletes' graduation rates be compared to other full-time students. The downward "part-timer bias" in the FGR student body rate distorts the comparison, making the relative graduation rates somewhat skewed. Because part-time students take longer to graduate, this significantly reduces the measured general student-body graduation rates, making the relative rate of college athletes at many schools and conferences appear more favorable. The AGG addresses this "part-timer bias" issue.

This initial report, using conferences with Division 1 FCS football and major basketball programs as examples, estimates full-time student-body rates for individual conferences using regression-based adjustments for the percentage of part-timers. These estimates then become the basis for the AGG comparison.

Using the published 4-class average graduation rates for 2009, the AGG adjusts the student-body graduation rates to remove the "part-timer bias." This allows for a comparison of reported Division 1 FBS football and major Division 1 basketball athlete federal graduation rates with the adjusted full-time student graduation rate.

Dr. Eckard (Professor of Economics, UC-Denver Business School: 1984-present; & former Manager of Regulatory Economics and Senior Staff Economist, at General Motors Corporation: 1978-84) and Dr. Southall will discuss the initial AGG rates Friday, April 23rd at The [Scholarly Conference on College Sport](#) hosted by The College Sport Research Institute (CSRI) in Chapel Hill, NC.

During this presentation, Dr. Eckard will discuss the AGG's methodology and how NCAA FBS football and NCAA D-I men's basketball graduation rates compare to the more accurate adjusted full-time student graduation rate.

As this line of research continues, CSRI will post an annual report of the AGG for all sports by NCAA division on its website, www.unc.edu/csri. CSRI is committed to providing the AGG as a public-service for individuals interested in college-athlete graduation rates and to allow comparisons between other published graduation-rate reports.

| AGG: NCAA FBS FOOTBALL | | | Estimated | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|------------|
| 2010 | | % | Men's | Full-time | FB | |
| | N | Part-time | FGR | FGR | FGR | Difference |
| All Schools* | 117 | 12.8 | 59.2 | 73.7 | 54.8 | -18.9 |
| Public | 100 | 14.1 | 55.5 | 72.2 | 52.4 | -19.8 |
| Private | 17 | 4.8 | 81.0 | 82.5 | 68.6 | -13.9 |
| Mid-American | 13 | 12.4 | 51.5 | 66.6 | 55.9 | -10.7 |
| Big East | 8 | 12.4 | 59.1 | 72.5 | 59.5 | -13.0 |
| Conference USA | 12 | 18.2 | 50.1 | 71.4 | 55.8 | -15.6 |
| Big 12 | 12 | 8.4 | 62.2 | 70.6 | 54.1 | -16.5 |
| Sun Belt | 9 | 28.2 | 36.1 | 68.2 | 51.2 | -17.0 |
| Southeastern | 12 | 7.6 | 62.0 | 68.8 | 50.1 | -18.8 |
| Atlantic Coast | 12 | 5.9 | 78.6 | 82.8 | 62.3 | -20.5 |
| Western Athletic | 9 | 20.0 | 41.7 | 69.0 | 47.4 | -21.6 |
| Big Ten | 11 | 7.5 | 74.6 | 81.3 | 59.2 | -22.1 |
| Mountain West* | 8 | 17.8 | 53.8 | 75.5 | 48.9 | -26.7 |
| Pacific-10 | 10 | 9.6 | 70.8 | 82.6 | 52.5 | -30.1 |

* Service academies excluded; 4-class Fed rates not reported

| AGG: NCAA D-I BASKETBALL | | | Estimated | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|------------|
| 2010 | | % | Men's | Full-time | BB | |
| | N | Part-time | FGR | FGR | FGR | Difference |
| All Schools* | 116 | 11.6 | 63.8 | 75.7 | 44.6 | -31.1 |
| Public | 82 | 12.8 | 58.3 | 73.5 | 40.4 | -33.1 |
| Private | 34 | 8.8 | 77.3 | 81.0 | 54.7 | -26.2 |
| Conference USA | 12 | 18.2 | 50.1 | 71.4 | 50.3 | -21.1 |
| Big East | 16 | 11.0 | 67.5 | 76.6 | 50.4 | -26.2 |
| Western Athletic | 9 | 20.0 | 41.7 | 69.0 | 41.7 | -27.4 |
| Big 12 | 12 | 8.4 | 62.2 | 70.6 | 42.9 | -27.7 |
| Southeastern | 12 | 7.6 | 62.0 | 68.8 | 37.4 | -31.4 |
| Mountain West* | 8 | 17.8 | 53.8 | 75.5 | 43.4 | -32.2 |
| Atlantic 10 | 14 | 13.5 | 68.4 | 77.2 | 45.0 | -32.2 |
| Big Ten | 11 | 7.5 | 74.6 | 81.3 | 47.0 | -34.3 |
| Pacific-10 | 10 | 9.6 | 70.8 | 82.6 | 43.2 | -39.4 |
| Atlantic Coast | 12 | 5.9 | 78.6 | 82.8 | 41.3 | -41.5 |

* Service academies excluded; 4-class Fed rates not reported

In fulfillment of its mission, the College Sport Research Institute encourages and supports interdisciplinary and interuniversity collaborative college sport research, serves as a research consortium for college sport researchers from across the United States, and disseminates college sport research results to academics, college sport practitioners, and the general public. CSRI works to create an atmosphere that encourages personal and intellectual growth for associated faculty and students, demands excellence and professional integrity, and supports independent college-sport research.

CSRI provides opportunities for independent, organized and focused cross-disciplinary research regarding college sport in the United States. Specifically, CSRI is committed to serving as a national clearinghouse for college sport research, by building research capacity – both internally and externally - that increases the ability of students, faculty, and college sport practitioners to perform research into issues in college sport.