



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA COMMITTEE ON ACCESS, OPPORTUNITY, AND IMPACT  
APRIL 22, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome, announcements and mission statement.** The chair convened the meeting at 2:03 p.m. Eastern time and welcomed the members. The committee reviewed its roster, subcommittee assignments and mission statement.
2. **Approval of February 4, 2026, meeting report.** The committee approved its February 2026 meeting report.
3. **NCAA Student-Athlete Advocacy/Advisory Committee updates.** The divisional SAAC representatives updated the committee on their respective SAAC's ongoing efforts.
4. **Inclusion, Education and Community Engagement updates.** NCAA staff provided an update on programming facilitated or sponsored by the units within Inclusion, Education and Community Engagement, including a series of events conducted in conjunction with the Division I Men's and Women's Final Fours (e.g., High School Student-Athlete Symposium, Legends and Legacy Celebrations, Legacy Dedication Project, Read to the Final Four, Above the Rim, and wheelchair basketball activations). Staff also shared a brief update on the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee/NCAA Para-College Inclusion Project, the purpose of which is to engage schools offering adaptive sports to collectively increase Paralympic sport understanding, awareness and connection across the collegiate landscape.
5. **SCORE Act discussion.** Staff reported that the Administrative Subcommittee discussed the SCORE Act during its March videoconference in which the subcommittee agreed to continue monitoring the bill's progress rather than take any formal action. The committee discussed various challenges faced by the Association (e.g., legal, financial, regulatory) and reiterated the need for NCAA members to protect the growth of NCAA sports, and specifically women's sports.
6. **Subcommittee updates.**
  - a. **Administrative Subcommittee.** The committee received an update on the subcommittee's work to define CAO's future agenda including discussions on the status of the SCORE Act, the review of the recommendations from former NCAA committees/groups (i.e., Committee on Women's Athletics [CWA], Gender Equity Task Force, Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee [MOIC] and NCAA divisional SAAC representatives on CWA and MOIC). It was noted that the subcommittee will identify additional recommendations to be considered by the full committee at future meetings. Finally, the committee reviewed and approved its policies and procedures as recommended by the subcommittee.

- b. Awards and Recognitions Subcommittee.** The subcommittee chair provided an update that the subcommittee, in partnership with the Minority Opportunities Athletic Association (MOAA), selected the 2026 divisional winners of the NCAA/MOAA Opportunities and Impact Award. Winners will be recognized at the June 2026 MOAA Symposium.

- Division I: Big Ten Conference
- Division II: Saint Michael's College
- Division III: Occidental College

It was noted that the subcommittee continues to refine the award process and will host a virtual information session in September to support and encourage applications. The program timeline is expected to remain unchanged for the 2026-27 academic year.

- c. Emerging Sports Subcommittee.** The subcommittee chair provided an update on its work to revise the application to the Emerging Sports for Women Guide, which was approved by the Administrative Subcommittee in April. The revised guide will be published online prior to the application's opening. It was noted that the subcommittee also has been working to update its evaluation criteria and define more specific standards and benchmarks for monitoring an emerging sport's progress during the legislated 10-year period. This effort includes the creation of a scoring rubric to guide both the subcommittee and the sport leaders through the evaluation process. Finally, the subcommittee will review each emerging sport's spring update during its future videoconferences.
- 7. Discuss previous committee and task force recommendations and implementation plan.** The committee reviewed a chart summarizing recommendations from the former NCAA committees/groups that transitioned into CAOI. Staff asked the committee to review the recommendations and identify areas for potential action. It was noted that an updated chart of recommendations will be shared at future meetings as needed.
- 8. Community and Belonging Social Media Campaign Update.** Staff provided an update on the social media campaign conducted April 15-16. The Day One theme was "My Impact, My Community," and the Day Two theme was "My Impact, My Voice." This is the first year that the campaign occurred during the fall and spring terms per recommendations from the national divisional SAACs.
- 9. Governance scorecard reminder.** Staff reminded the committee of the May 19 deadline to complete the 2025-26 Association-wide governance scorecard. The 10-minute, confidential survey is used to help staff evaluate and improve service for NCAA committees.
- 10. Future meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed its future meeting schedule.

11. **Other business.** The committee reviewed the results of the membership prioritization survey addressing national office services and programs, including response rates and implications for future budget planning. The committee agreed to send a letter to NCAA senior leadership and the NCAA Board of Governors, supporting the continuation of belonging and other human centered programs, citing their significant impact on individual participants and on the broader environment of college sports. The committee emphasized the importance of offering membership opportunities to discuss the impact of specific budget proposals related to national office services and programs.

The committee also received an update from a CAOI member on the second Native Student-Athlete Summit hosted by the Indigenous Athletics Council June 2-4, at the University of Kansas. It was noted that the event will serve Native student-athletes from NCAA, NAIA and junior college campuses.

12. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m. Eastern time.

*Committee Chair: Jacqie McWilliams Parker, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.*

*Staff Liaisons: Corey Berg, Division III Governance and Member Services.*

*Niya Blair Hackworth, Office of Inclusion.*

*Jean Merrill, Office of Inclusion.*

*Gretchen Miron, Office of Inclusion.*

*Amy Wilson, Office of Inclusion.*

<b>NCAA Committee on Access, Opportunity, and Impact April 22, 2026, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
JP Abercrombie, University of Notre Dame.	
Femi Alao, Roberts Wesleyan University.	
Alisse Ali-Joseph, Northern Arizona University.	
Nichole Book, Mansfield University of Pennsylvania.	
Kristie Bowers, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.	
Pankil Chander, Wilkes University.	
Stacey Gibson, Idaho State University.	
Janet Gooch, University of Illinois Springfield.	
Juan Hernandez, Curry College.	
Mercedes Himmons, Southern Connecticut State University.	
Alfred Lamptey, University of Mount Saint Vincent.	
Martin Lemelle, Grambling State University.	
Ryan Martin, The City College of New York.	
Jacqie McWilliams, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Noreen Morris, Northeast Conference.	

Peyton Owens, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.
Jeffrey Poulard, Big East Conference.
Stephanie Stevens, Gallaudet University.
Marion Terenzio, State University of New York at Cobleskill.
Dawn Turner, Lander University.
Betsey Walkowiak, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.
Kristin Williams, Mid-American Conference.
<b>Guest:</b>
Darcey Dorris, Central State University. (Replacement for Division II student-athlete representative that was unable to attend.)
<b>Absentees:</b>
Greg Bamberger, Fairmont State University.
Yahir Chairez-Salazar, Colorado School of Mines.
Mark Giles, University of Illinois Chicago.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Corey Berg, Niya Blair Hackworth, Jean Merrill, Gretchen Miron, and Amy Wilson.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for the Meeting:</b>
Debbie Brown, Dawn Buth, Hannah Davis, Gail Dent, Stephannie Harvey-Vandenberg, Leah Kareti, Ashlesha Lokhande, Kat Lin, Felicia Martin, Leilyn Miles, Tyler Noragon, Stephanie Quigg and Jen Roe.