

Foundation for the Future

Final report of programs and initiatives that support the Division II Strategic Plan



Among the most important decisions the Division II Presidents Council made in 2015 when adopting the Division II Strategic Plan was to sufficiently fund it, committing \$5.7 million through the course of the strategic plan to support a 10-program “Foundation for the Future” initiative that would not only bolster the plan but benefit the division overall for years to come.

The 10 programs were selected from among more than two dozen concepts and ideas submitted to a representative task force that included members of the Presidents Council and the Division II Planning and Finance Committee.

Many of these programs were so successful that they became intertwined permanently within the Division II fabric. Five in fact were approved to continue being funded as part of the Division II base budget even after the Foundation for the Future allocation ended in the 2020-21 fiscal year:

- ▶ Division II University
- ▶ Division II Coaches Connection Program
- ▶ Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Super Region Convention
- ▶ Enhanced Sessions for the Division II Mentor Program
- ▶ National Association for Athletics Compliance Grant

The following report provides a synopsis of the 10 programs and their indelible impact they’ve made on Division II, thanks to the vision and commitment the Division II Presidents Council exhibited upon adopting the strategic plan in 2015.



FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE TIMELINE

APRIL 2011

Following the signed extension of the NCAA's media rights agreement with CBS/Turner through 2023-24, the Division II Presidents Council approves a long-range budget coinciding with the length of the contract.

(Note: Part of the long-range budget included purchasing a \$15 million event cancellation insurance policy to guarantee the division a portion of revenue if an unexpected event occurred that affected the Division I Men's Basketball Championship. While likely regarded as a safety net of extreme proportions at the time, the policy certainly helped the division stabilize its budget in the wake of the 2020 pandemic.)

APRIL 2014

The NCAA Board of Governors approves a 10-year long-range budget for the Association that reflects revenue from the NCAA's media rights agreements and NCAA championships (e.g., ticket sales). The championships revenue – particularly ticket sales – had not been previously captured in Division II's long-range budget. Accordingly, the division's reserve plus insurance is projected to be close to 100 percent by the end of 2023-24.

APRIL 2015

The Division II Presidents Council formally approves the 2015-21 Division II Strategic Plan and agrees to amend the division's reserve policy to 70 percent through 2023-24, which frees up \$5.2 million to help fund the newly approved plan. (An additional \$500,000 would be added to the effort through subsequent revenue surpluses.)

JANUARY 2016

The Division II Management Council and the Division II Presidents Council during their joint meeting at the NCAA Convention discuss potential priorities for the Foundation for the Future initiative.

JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2016

Division II and Association-wide committees are asked to submit proposals for using the Foundation for the Future funds by March 1.

MARCH–APRIL 2016

A task force composed of Division II chancellors and presidents, athletics directors, conference commissioners, faculty athletics representatives and student-athletes reviews the proposals and recommends 10 to the Division II Planning and Finance Committee and the Division II Presidents Council to consider funding. The Division II Presidents Council subsequently approves the recommendations.

DIVISION II FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE TASK FORCE

Linda Bleicken (Chair)
President, Armstrong State University

Bob Boerigter
Commissioner, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association

Brenda Cates
Faculty Athletics Representative,
University of Mount Olive

Debbie Chin
Director of Athletics, University of
New Haven

Jody Harpster Jr.
President, Shippensburg University of
Pennsylvania

Glen Jones
President, Henderson State University

Marcus Manning
Director of Athletics, Maryville University of
Saint Louis

Katie McGann
Associate Director of Athletics and
Senior Compliance Administrator,
University of California, San Diego

Jacqie McWilliams
Commissioner, Central Intercollegiate
Athletic Association

Pat O'Brien
President, West Texas A&M University

Chris Pike
Football Student-Athlete, Gannon
University of Pennsylvania

Fran Reidy
Director of Athletics, Saint Leo University

Steve Scott
President, Pittsburg State University

FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE ALLOCATIONS

PROPOSAL NAME	ANNUAL AMOUNTS					TOTAL AMOUNT
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
Online Coaches Education Program	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,500,000
Coaches Connection Expansion	\$33,000	\$66,000	\$88,000	\$110,000	\$132,000	\$429,000
SAAC Super Region Conventions		\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000
Professional Development for ADs	\$86,500	\$86,500	\$86,500	\$86,500	\$86,500	\$432,500
NAAC Education Programming	\$133,000	\$49,400	\$49,400	\$49,400	\$49,400	\$330,600
Academic Metrics Review	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
Division II Degree Completion Awards	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$440,000
Helper Helper	\$40,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$100,000
Transportation for Community Engagement	\$16,975	\$16,975	\$16,975	\$16,975		\$67,900
DII Conference Distributions	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,200,000
	\$2,197,475	\$926,875	\$848,875	\$870,875	\$855,900	\$5,700,000



PROGRAMS NOW PART OF THE DIVISION II BASE BUDGET:

DIVISION II UNIVERSITY (Online Coaches Education Program)

What has come to be regarded as the fundamental delivery method for education, training and information sharing – not only for Division II but the NCAA in general – began modestly as an Online Coaches Education Program designed to deliver legislative and health and safety content to a constituency that was too frequently left out of the communication loop.

The immediate goal was for “DII U” to replace the antiquated annual coaches certification exam, a proposal that was resoundingly approved at the 2019 NCAA Convention. DII U was much preferred because of its interactive and easy-to-access courses that creatively and more practically educated constituents on everything from recruiting and eligibility rules and governance to improving student-athlete health and wellness.

Since then, DII U has literally changed the way members understand and follow Division II operating procedures and principles.



COACHES CONNECTION EXPANSION

As was the case with Division II University, the Coaches Connection program was but a fledgling in 2015, having been established in 2012-13 as a pilot program for football and women’s volleyball. The pilot’s initial success warranted an expansion in 2014-15 to include men’s and women’s tennis and men’s and women’s soccer.

Foundation for the Future funding allowed Coaches Connection to encompass all Division II sports and be among the most transformative programs in Division II history.

Coaches Connection is successful because it accomplishes exactly what the program’s title implies: It connects coaches with a forum for sharing information and, more importantly, sharing their voice in the governance of Division II athletics. The program enhances coaches’ engagement and fortifies their role as advocates for the value of Division II athletics, and it more actively engages coaches associations in the process.



SAAC SUPER REGION CONVENTION

The Foundation for the Future initiative focused on enhancing student-athletes' roles in the governance structure as well. While the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee participates annually at the NCAA Convention, the "Super Region" conventions provide a convention experience for conference and institutional SAACs, which means even more student-athletes can participate in the governance structure and better understand issues affecting all Division II student-athletes.

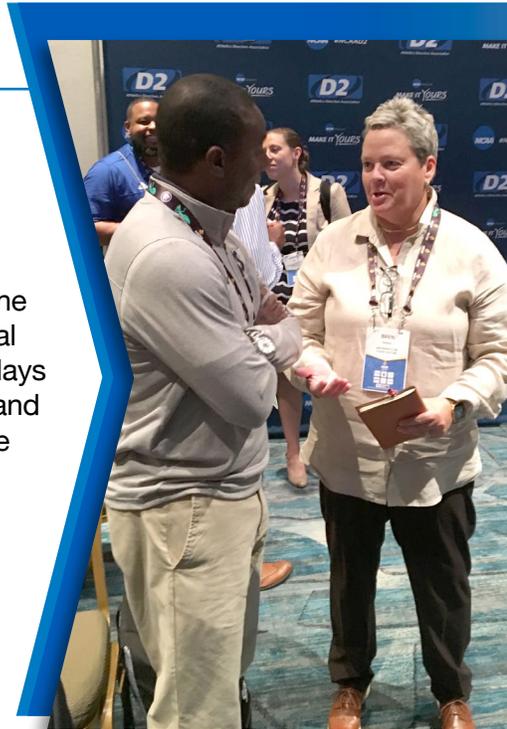


PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ATHLETICS DIRECTORS

This effort enhances an existing mentoring program that the Division II Athletics Directors Association helps administer, targeting aspiring ADs, particularly women and ethnic minorities. It also targets programming for veteran ADs to help them manage their athletics operations more effectively.

The program for first-year Division II athletics directors has helped new ADs hit the ground running. Originally, programming was limited to one-half day at the annual NCAA Convention, but the program was upgraded to feature one and one-half days at the NCAA national office in October (in conjunction with the existing D2 ADA and CCA meetings there at that time) to allow D2 ADA officers to be presenters at the orientation sessions and to allow the new ADs to interact with D2 ADA officers and NCAA staff (and to familiarize themselves with the NCAA national office). A follow-up session is offered at the annual NACDA convention in June. (These sessions were conducted virtually in 2020-21 due to the pandemic but will resume in person in 2022-23.)

The ADA also launched a pilot program in which each of the four DII ADA officers in a given year "adopt" a new AD and sponsor an on-campus visit to provide in-person mentorship and experience.



NAAC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The Foundation for the Future initiative has allowed the National Association for Athletics Compliance to provide Division II schools and conferences an interactive educational training program to help administrators maintain ethical compliance programs.

Integral to the program is the Learning Management Platform, which features a library of reference materials for use by the on-campus professional in a location that allows them to be updated regularly with little or no expense. These materials are also being incorporated into the Division II University platform.



PROGRAMS RECEIVING ONE-TIME FUNDING THROUGH THE FFF:

ACADEMIC METRICS REVIEW

This grant allowed Division II to review metrics for academic success, improve the accuracy of data collection and strengthen the foundation upon which academic policy decisions are made.



DEGREE-COMPLETION AWARDS

A total of \$440,000 was distributed to provide additional funding to student-athletes who have exhausted their athletics eligibility to help them complete their undergraduate degrees.



HELPER HELPER

Helper Helper is an online community engagement platform that makes it simple for schools and organizations to connect student-athletes to meaningful volunteer experiences and track their community engagement efforts. Division II student-athletes logged community service hours through the Helper Helper app.



TRANSPORTATION FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This FFF grant added to a Division II staple of community engagement by providing bus transportation to Division II championships for community members who participate in community engagement events.



CONFERENCE DISTRIBUTION

The FFF also allocated a one-time distribution of \$50,000 to each Division II conference to be used in any of the following areas: academic support, broadcast support, officiating improvement and branding efforts. Division II conferences used these dollars to fund programs that have benefitted their membership and increased their footprint both regionally and nationally.

