

# Foundation for the Future

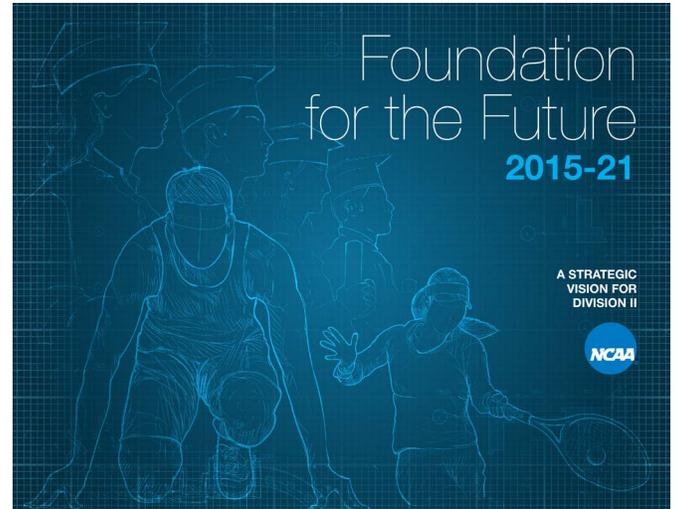
An update on programs and initiatives that support the strategic plan



The Division II Presidents Council in April 2015 approved 10 programs and initiatives to receive funding through the division's Foundation for the Future effort. The FFF allocated \$5.7 million to programs and initiatives that support the division's strategic plan. Program nominations were submitted to a representative task force that included members of the Presidents Council and the Division II Planning and Finance Committee.

Following is a brief summary of progress as of June 1, 2020. In addition, the Division II Planning and Finance Committee, which oversees the Foundation for the Future initiative, has authorized continuing some of the programs even after the 2020-21 fiscal year, which is the last year of funding for Foundation for the Future. To date, the following initiatives have been approved to continue being funded as part of the Division II base budget:

- Enhanced programming for the Division II mentor program;
- Division II Coaches Connection program;
- Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Super Region Convention;
- Division II University; and
- A grant to the National Association for Athletics Compliance.



## COACHES CONNECTION EXPANSION

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The existing program has created a successful collaboration between coaches and governance in almost all Division II sports.

### GOAL(S) IN THE DIVISION II STRATEGIC PLAN TO WHICH THE INITIATIVE PERTAINS

Enhance coaches' engagement and fortify their role as advocates for Division II.

### GROUP(S) PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Several governance committees, along with NCAA staff.

### PROGRESS REPORT

This program has become one of the most transformative in recent Division II history. Funds from 2019-20 allowed for the addition of field hockey and men's and women's basketball to the lineup, meaning that Coaches Connection now includes 24 of the 25 championship sports in Division II, lacking only women's rowing, which is slated to be added in 2020-21. The program continues to provide a Division II educational component to the monthly agendas designed to engage Division II coaches and ensure a full understanding of the division's governance and legislative processes, as well as its philosophy, identity platform, strategic plan and priorities. The program is achieving its goals, which is demonstrated by the fact that several sports have initiated legislative changes that have been enacted as well as changes to the operation and conduct of regional and national championships.



## DIVISION II UNIVERSITY (ONLINE COACHES EDUCATION PROGRAM)

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

A comprehensive online coaches education program that will deliver legislative and health and safety content to Division II coaches through Division II University.

### GOAL(S) IN THE DIVISION II STRATEGIC PLAN TO WHICH THE INITIATIVE PERTAINS

Enhance coaches' engagement and fortify their role as advocates for Division II.

### GROUP(S) PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Several governance committees, along with NCAA staff.

### PROGRESS REPORT

DII U has enjoyed such an enormous impact that the model is being used by Divisions I and III as well. The program launched in May 2018 is literally changing the way members understand and follow Division II operating procedures and principles. The Division II membership in fact adopted legislation at the 2019 Convention to replace the coaches exam with DII U modules. The program continues to be expanded, with modules being developed for committee training, game environment (the division's game environment partnership with the Disney Institute) and content specifically for faculty athletics representatives.



## ACADEMIC METRICS REVIEW

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Review the division's metrics for academic success, improve the accuracy of data collection and strengthen the foundation upon which academic policy decisions are made.

### GOAL(S) IN THE DIVISION II STRATEGIC PLAN TO WHICH THE INITIATIVE PERTAINS

Develop and maintain metrics to help evaluate and advance academic success.

### GROUP(S) PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Division II Academic Requirements Committee.

### PROGRESS REPORT

The project is essentially complete. The funds for 2018-19 were crucial to complete Phase 2 of the grant, which focused on gathering both qualitative and quantitative feedback from the Division II membership regarding (a) their compilation and submission of academic data, (b) use of those data outcomes, and (c) recommendations for potential changes to the current process. To this end, a division-wide survey was distributed, which received very strong response rates. To supplement the survey results, the consultants contacted conference-wide groups between February and May of 2018. The subsequent report to the Division II Academic Requirements Committee summarized the findings from both Phase 1 and Phase 2 along with a host of recommendations for committee and division-wide consideration.



## SAAC SUPER REGION CONVENTION

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Provide a SAAC convention each year to enhance student-athlete participation in the governance structure and enable student-athletes and administrators to better understand issues affecting Division II student-athletes.

### GOAL(S) IN THE DIVISION II STRATEGIC PLAN TO WHICH THE INITIATIVE PERTAINS

Ensure student-athlete participation in the governance structure at the local, conference and national levels.

### GROUP(S) PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, in conjunction with NCAA staff.

### PROGRESS REPORT

Division II hosted its inaugural Super Region Convention November 17-19, 2017, in Washington, D.C. The second SAAC Super Region Convention was April 12-14, 2019, in Orlando. The third convention scheduled for April 2020 in Los Angeles was cancelled due to the impact of COVID-19. Staff is working with the Division II SAAC to schedule a convention in the west region in the near future.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ADs



### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Enhance 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.

### GOAL(S) IN THE DIVISION II STRATEGIC PLAN TO WHICH THE INITIATIVE PERTAINS

Provide leadership and development opportunities for athletics administrators, coaches and faculty.

### GROUP(S) PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Division II ADA, the Division II Membership Committee and the Division II Nominating Committee.

### PROGRESS REPORT

Grant dollars continue to fund professional development resources for Division II ADs. Because of the cancellation of the 2020 NACDA convention due to the COVID-19 health crisis, many of the in-person training sessions will be conducted via virtual/digital platforms.



## DEGREE-COMPLETION AWARDS



### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

A total of \$440,000 will be distributed over five years (2016-21) to provide additional funding to student-athletes who have exhausted their athletics eligibility to help them complete their undergraduate degrees.

### GOAL(S) IN THE DIVISION II STRATEGIC PLAN TO WHICH THE INITIATIVE PERTAINS

Develop and maintain metrics to help evaluate and advance academic success; support student-athletes in their efforts not only to complete their undergraduate degrees but also pursue postgraduate work.

### GROUP(S) PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

The Division II Degree-Completion Awards Committee.

### PROGRESS REPORT

As of 2018, the Division II Degree-Completion Awards Committee was able to fund all of the awards through the committee budget, and much of the \$88,000 allocation for 2018-19 is being carried over to 2020-21.

## HELPER HELPER

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

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.

### GOAL(S) IN THE DIVISION II STRATEGIC PLAN TO WHICH THE INITIATIVE PERTAINS

Provide service and engagement opportunities for current student-athletes.

### GROUP(S) PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, in conjunction with NCAA staff.

### PROGRESS REPORT

The \$20,000 annual allocation have helped engage student-athletes across Division II in 167,777 hours of community service in 2019-20. That is a \$4.2 million economic impact. The program continues to add Division II institutions, increasing the number of student-athletes who are logging community engagement hours through Helper Helper. The program added 20 Division II institutions this year, and one conference and 28 additional schools have signed on for this coming year.



## NAAC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Provide Division II schools and conferences an interactive educational training program to help administrators maintain ethical compliance programs.

### GOAL(S) IN THE DIVISION II STRATEGIC PLAN TO WHICH THE INITIATIVE PERTAINS

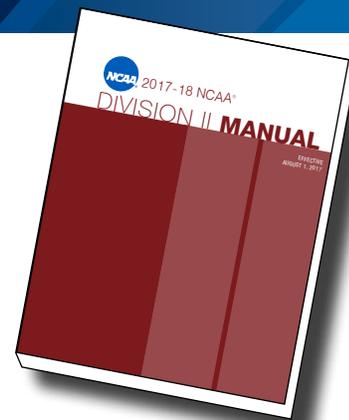
Develop, enhance and increase educational opportunities and services to support and maintain an effective compliance system; Develop, maintain and share compliance tools to help institutions and conferences fortify their day-to-day compliance operations.

### GROUP(S) PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Division II Legislation Committee and Membership Committee.

### PROGRESS REPORT

During 2019-20, NAAC completed enhancements to the existing D2 Education Program by upgrading 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. To date, more than 700 individuals representing more than 230 institutions have registered for the program. Without this funding, NAAC would not be able to provide this program to Division II institutions.



## TRANSPORTATION FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Provide bus transportation to Division II championships for community members who participate in community engagement events.

### GOAL(S) IN THE DIVISION II STRATEGIC PLAN TO WHICH THE INITIATIVE PERTAINS

Strengthen partnerships and relationships with host communities, schools, coaches associations, media and sponsors at the local, regional and national levels.

### GROUP(S) PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

NCAA staff.

### PROGRESS REPORT

Allocations in 2019-20 continued to fund transportation for community members to attend the Division II national championships and build goodwill in those communities. This year's funds supported the fall championships, but not all of the annual allocation was used due to the cancellation of winter and spring sport championships because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



## CONFERENCE DISTRIBUTION



### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

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.

### GOAL(S) IN THE DIVISION II STRATEGIC PLAN TO WHICH THE INITIATIVE PERTAINS

Membership and Positioning Initiatives.

### GROUP(S) PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Division II Conference Commissioners Association.

### PROGRESS REPORT

The majority of Division II conferences have expended the entire amount awarded toward programs that have benefitted their membership and increased their footprint both regionally and nationally.