

Foundation for the Future

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 August 1, 2018.

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: Allocations for 2017-18 funded data reviews for select Division II institutions to determine the accuracy of academic data submitted to the NCAA and identify consistent issues across the membership. The next phase of the project is to solicit both quantitative and qualitative 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.



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: To date, the Division II Degree-Completion Awards Committee has been able to fund all of the awards through the committee budget. The program has recently been restructured, however, and FFF funds are expected to be used in the coming years.



COACHES CONNECTION EXPANSION

Brief description of the initiative: The existing program has created a successful collaboration between coaches and governance in football, women's volleyball, soccer and tennis – so much so in fact that the goal is to expand the program to all 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: The allocation for 2017-18 expanded the program to include baseball, cross country, track and field, softball, wrestling, swimming and diving, golf and lacrosse (this brings the program representation to 21 of the 25 championship sports in Division II; lacking only men's and women's basketball, field hockey and women's rowing).



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: Student-athletes contributed almost 145,000 hours of community engagement in 2017-18, nearly double the 2016-17 total.

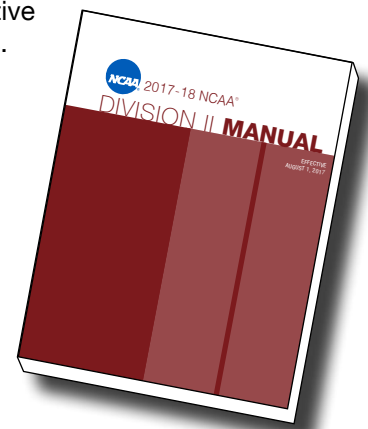
NAAC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

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 2017-18, the National Association for Athletics Compliance (NAAC) enhanced the existing D2 Education Program by removing barriers to registration, adding new tools for administrators, increasing program visibility and updating lessons. As of March 9, 2018, 592 individuals representing 213 institutions and conferences have registered to participate in the program (up from 127 individuals from 101 institutions and conferences the year prior).



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: As promised, DII U launched in May 2018 and experienced an enthusiastic reception from the Division II membership. As of July 9, 2,763 users had registered; 227 had completed courses (33 of whom had completed 15 courses); and 1,088 courses had been completed overall.



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: Funding provided ongoing support for NACDA convention programming, mentoring program enhancement and new AD orientation.



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. About 170 student-athletes and administrators from six conferences (CACC, CIAA, ECC, MEC, NE10, PSAC) and one independent institution (Bluefield State) attended. The next super region convention will be April 12-14, 2019, in Orlando, Florida, and will host administrators and student-athletes from the South and Southeast regions, as well as independent institutions located in Puerto Rico.

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 2017-18 continued to fund transportation for community members to attend the Division II national championships and build goodwill in those communities.



CONFERENCE DISTRIBUTION



Brief description of the initiative: A one-time distribution of \$50,000 to each of the 24 Division II conferences 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: To date, 19 conferences have used all or a portion of their distributions to enhance the identified areas.