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, 2019. In addition, the Division II Planning and Finance Committee, which oversees the Foundation for the Future initiative, discussed plans at its April 2019 meeting for funding 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 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:** This program had expended more than $51,000 of its awarded funds for 2018-19. The program now includes 21 of the 25 championship sports in Division II, lacking only men's and women's basketball, field hockey and women's rowing. The most recent allocation allowed the cross country and track connector program to be divided into two separate programs, providing better services to the coaches in these two sports. 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.
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 launched in May 2018 and experienced an enthusiastic reception from the Division II membership. This program is on its projected budget and, thus far, has expended approximately $107,387 in fiscal year 2018-19. The remaining funds will likely be used for developing new courses and the license fees associated with doing so.

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 comprehensive report provided to the Division II Academic Requirements Committee for review at its September meeting 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, at the Omni Orlando Resort in ChampionsGate, Florida. The program will incur nearly all of its costs after the super region convention. These costs will be outlined in the 2019-20 report.
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 allotted award of $20,000 for the second year has been spent for the period. The funds for this grant have helped engage student-athletes across Division II in 169,357 hours of community service this year. That is a $4 million economic impact, more than $1 million more than last year. The program continues to add Division II institutions, increasing the number of student-athletes who are logging community service hours through Helper Helper. This increase has led to 4,772 events being tracked in Helper Helper. The participating institutions also competed in two service competitions throughout the 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:** Of the $49,400 awarded, $25,000 has been spent. During 2018-19, NAAC enhanced the existing Division II Education Program by upgrading the Learning Management Platform where the program is hosted. In addition to a fresh look and feel, the new platform allows easy access to the “NAAC toolkit,” which is a library of reference materials for use by the on-campus professional. The toolkit and reference materials are hosted in a location that allows them to be updated regularly with little or no expense. As of February 11, 2019, 652 individuals representing 223 unique institutions have registered for the program. To provide historical perspective, on March 9, 2018, 592 individuals representing 213 unique institutions and conferences were registered, and on March 14, 2017, only 127 individuals from 101 unique institutions and conferences were participating.

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:** This program had expended more than $3,100 of its awarded funds for 2018-19. Allocations in 2018-19 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:** Of the $50,000 awarded to each Division II conference, 15 conferences have expended the entire amount awarded, while eight conferences have used a portion of the funds and one conference has yet to use any of the funds.