

*The Drake Group Education Fund Webinar Series –
Critical Issues in Collegiate Athletics
Hosted by 2aDays.com*

**“The Future of the NCAA -- Transformation or Preservation of the
Status Quo?”**

MEET THE PANELISTS

Thursday, January 19, 2023



JULIE SOMMER, MODERATOR, Attorney, The Drake Group President-Elect; expert on the status of state NIL bills, The Drake Group liaison to the Uniform Law Commission that developed a model NIL statute, and author of a comparative analysis of current federal NIL bills. Julie is a member of the Washington State Bar Association, King County Bar Association and Sports Lawyers Association; former NCAA All-American swimmer at the University of Texas at Austin, member of an NCAA National Championship team, USA Swimming National Team member and listed among the top ten in World Swim Rankings.



J. KENYATTA CAVIL, Ed.D., Dean and Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, College of Education and Professor, Department of Health, Kinesiology and Sport Studies, Texas Southern University. Dr. Cavil specializes in sports business leadership, entertainment and sports analytics. He is a preeminent scholar on critical sports studies and his research interests include the sporting HBCU diaspora, HBCU sports culture theory, and HBCU athletics aesthetics. Dr. Cavil's *Inside the #HBCU Sports Lab* with Mike Washington and Charles Bishop is a streaming show, ultra-popular with HBCU sports fans, airing twice a week on various digital media platforms.



DONNA A. LOPIANO, Ph.D. Adjunct Professor of Sports Management, Southern Connecticut State University; President of Sports Management Resources, a consulting firm; Past-President of The Drake Group; member of The Drake Group Education Fund Board of Directors; former CEO of the Women's Sports Foundation (1992-2007) and Director of Women's Athletics, University of Texas at Austin (1975-1992).



BETSY MITCHELL, Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation, California Institute of Technology; Sport Management Consultant, strategic planning, change management, facility creation, fundraising, staff development; motivational speaker; former Allegheny College director of athletics and recreation; former Dartmouth College swimming & diving head coach; former instructor of sports management, Notre Dame College of Ohio; former director of athletics at Laurel School for Girls in Shaker Heights, Ohio as well as director of athletics at Thomas Worthington High School in Columbus, Ohio; Olympic medalist, former world record holder and multi time NCAA swimming champion at University of Texas at Austin.



DEREK VAN DER MERWE, Director of Athletics, Bowling Green State University; former Associate Vice President and chief operations officer, University of Arizona athletics department; former Vice President of Advancement, Communication and Strategic Initiatives at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee, where he also previously served as director of intercollegiate athletics; van der Merwe has worked in higher education for more than 25 years, serving in leadership roles in both athletics and university-wide positions. He has held leadership positions in the Pac-12 Conference, the Ohio Valley Conference and the Mid-American Conference.