



**The Drake Group, INC.**  
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY IN COLLEGIATE SPORT

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



First, thanks to all of you for your continued support of The Drake Group and your commitment to advocating for academic integrity and protecting the health and well-being of college athletes. Second, we want to share our 2020 Annual Report - a summary of all we have accomplished this year. Second, we are optimistic about 2021, as a year that represents an incredible opportunity to achieve significant intercollegiate athletics reform via new and expansive college athletes' rights legislation by the 117th Congress. When these bills are filed, we will ask for your help in urging your representatives to support them. Last, if you think we are doing good work, please join or renew your Drake membership (January to December is our membership year) by [clicking here](#). Please be SAFE, get vaccinated as soon as you can. Wishing you a healthy and rewarding New Year!

*-- Donna A. Lopiano, President*

## WORK WITH CONGRESS



During the past year, Drake members met with over 70 members of the House of Representatives to brief them on the need for intercollegiate athletics reform and seek support for a Congressional Commission for that purpose. In addition, Drake provided experts to work with numerous house and Senate offices on the [NIL issue](#). Drake offered analysis and criticism for XXX bills on college athlete Covid safety and NIL rights: [The Fairness in Collegiate Athletics Act](#), the [College Athlete Pandemic Safety Act](#), the [Student Athlete Level Playing Field Act](#), [Fairness in College Athletics Act](#), [College Athletes Compensation Rights Act](#), and the [College Athletes Bill of Rights](#). With specific regard to the NIL issue, The Drake Group has been maintaining a database and regularly updating Congressional committees and

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## DRAKE POSITIONS ON CRITICAL ISSUES

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The Drake Education Working Group has completed another productive year of in-depth work on critical issues in intercollegiate athletics. In response to the Department of Education issuing [new sexual harassment guidelines](#), Drake issued comments on the impact they would have on curbing athlete sexual assault and protecting student victims. When the NCAA Infractions Committee issued an [unfair penalty against the University of Massachusetts](#), Drake issued a call for reconsideration. When [college athletes organized to express concerns over being brought back to campus in the midst of the Covid epidemic](#), Drake called for a cancellation of fall sports and a resetting of the structure of college sports.

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## STANDING UP FOR ATHLETES' RIGHTS AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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A Drake tradition is to stay on top of breaking news and issue comment whenever the NCAA or its member institutions operate against the best interests of athletes or the academic integrity of higher education. Failing to do otherwise is acceptance of wrong doing.

Unfortunately, there were too many occurrences in 2020 which mandated that we speak out. Drake issued a [strong criticism of the Knight Commission proposal](#) to restructure the NCAA's Division I Football Bowl Subdivision. When no legislative proposal was forthcoming to actually enact an athletes' bill of rights, [Drake issued a sample bill](#) to accomplish that goal. Drake issued comments about the [July 1 Senate Commerce Committee NIL hearing](#) on and the [July 22 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on college athlete compensation](#).

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## KUDOS WHEN APPLAUSE WAS DUE...

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And its important for Drake to lead the cheering section when good things happen to college athletes or when athletes or institutions do the right thing. Drake issued kudos when [a lawsuit was filed alleging NCAA race discrimination against HBCU](#)s. When the NAIA was the first collegiate athletic governance organization to give athletes NIL rights and the NCAA proposed

legislation to follow suit, Drake [commented on the pros and cons of the NCAA and NAIA rules](#). Special kudos to Drake members whose op-eds educates the broader public on the need for collegiate athletics reform and grateful thanks for all of you whose membership dues and additional gifts have made the difference.

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## AN EASY WAY FOR YOU TO HELP!

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Right now The Drake Group is conducting [a national education campaign](#) and fundraising to end abuse in college sports.

Our goal is to reform the NCAA structure in a way that minimizes the abusive and exploitive practices of the NCAA while preserving the excitement and enjoyment that college sports brings to athletes, alumni, family, and fans.

We are looking to grow awareness of these issues. You can help do so, by clicking the share now button below, to share our Facebook post with your friends and family.

[Share Our Facebook Post](#)

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For the most current information on The Drake Group, follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or visit us at [www.thedrakegroup.org](http://www.thedrakegroup.org). *For high school and college athletes and their parents only: Follow @AskDocEmmett on Twitter and @AthleteRights101 on Instagram for trustworthy info and where prospective high school and college athletes and their parents can safely ask questions.*

Media queries on collegiate athletics reform may be directed to Drake President, Donna Lopiano ([Donna.Lopiano@gmail.com](mailto:Donna.Lopiano@gmail.com))

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*The Drake Group is a national organization of faculty and others whose mission is to defend educational integrity in higher education from the corrosive aspects of commercialized college sports.*

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