

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

***Are Institutions Being Held Accountable for Delivering on the Promise  
of a Meaningful Education?***

**Thursday, March 30, 2023 – 2:00-3:30 p.m. EDT**

A stellar line up of expert panelists, including faculty, academic advising professionals, and college athlete advocates, discuss the tenuous educational connection between intercollegiate athletics at the commercialized NCAA Division I competition level and the academy. Are college athletes truly being provided with the education they were promised? How is that education being measured? Are there differences in the academic advising and treatment of athletes in revenue versus non-revenue sports and, if so, what are they? Are graduation rates the best measure of educational outcomes? Should other alternatives or additional measures be considered, and if so, what are they? How extensive is the tendency of some institutions to focus on eligibility maintenance over access to a real education? To what extent are athletes in control of choice of academic majors? Are athletics time demands realistic, and if not, is there a will on the part of the NCAA or individual institutions of higher education to put different guardrails in place? Are coaches adequately evaluated and held accountable for the graduation or academic performance of athletes they recruit and, if not, are there mechanisms to do so?



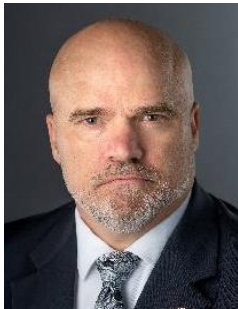
**BRUCE SMITH Ph.D. (Moderator), Director of Empowerment Strategies/CEO, ACES Group** has worked in K-12, higher education and intercollegiate athletics for more than two decades as a teacher, professor, administrator, and coach; as a higher education administrator, his work focused on student life, athletics, and equity and justice at both small private liberal arts colleges and flagship state institutions in California, Arizona, Colorado, and Oregon; Smith specializes in managing comprehensive student support; mentoring and supervising staff; creating connections between curriculum and co-curriculum and developing equity and justice institutional strategies; as a professor, his work focuses on African American life and culture; the sociology of education; sport studies; and American studies with an emphasis on developing engaging, student-centered, identity-conscious pedagogy.



**LISA M. RUBIN, Ph.D., Associate Professor, College of Education, Kansas State University**, current Co-Editor of the *NACADA Journal*, Dr. Rubin is a recipient of the National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals (N4A) 2020 Research Award, 2019 Professional Excellence Award, and 2009 Professional Promise Award; She is a recipient of the Big 12 Faculty Fellowship and the NCAA Innovations in Research and Practice Grant in 2018 and was named one of the Top 25 Woman Leaders in Higher Education and Beyond by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* in 2017; her research interests are ethics in intercollegiate athletics, advising and developing student-athletes, the changing environment of college athletics, NCAA reform and women in intercollegiate athletic administration.



**RICHARD M. SOUTHALL, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Sport and Entertainment Management, University of South Carolina, Director of the College Sport Research Institute** which sponsors an annual conference on U.S. college sport, publishes the Journal of Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics (JIIA), and produces college athlete graduation rate reports; Dr. Southall has published 15 book chapters, over 100 research articles and technical reports, and is often quoted in major media outlets such as *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *ESPN*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*; served as a consultant for the plaintiffs O'Bannon v. NCAA litigation and testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation; Dr. Southall is the co-editor and author of a forthcoming book: *The NCAA and the Exploitation of College Profit-Athletes: An Amateurism That Never Was*.



**DAVID RIDPATH, Ed.D., Associate Professor of Sports Business at Ohio University, College of Business;** former Assistant Professor of Sport Administration at Mississippi State University and has over 15 years of practical experience in intercollegiate athletics in administrative and coaching capacities at Marshall University, Weber State University and Ohio University; Dr. Ridpath is often cited by major media outlets such as the *New York Times*, *Time Magazine*, *CNN* and *ESPN* as an expert on NCAA and intercollegiate athletic matters, has appeared before Congressional committees, and served as an expert witness in numerous cases involving intercollegiate athletics and college athlete rights; he has authored over 30 academic journal articles, over 10 academic book chapters and monographs and two books; his latest book is entitled *Alternative Models of Sport Development in America: Solutions to a Crisis in Education and Public Health*.



**HOWARD CROOM III, Ed.D., Associate Athletic Director, Chief Diversity Officer & Director of Student Services, Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Oregon State University** leads the Athletic Department's diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging strategy and efforts; oversees a number of areas related to the holistic development of college athletes including Student-Athlete Development, International Services, and liaisons to Academics for Student-Athletes; Dr. Croom is a member of the graduate faculty in Oregon State's School of Language, Culture, and Society; he has spent a majority of his career in academic and career support for student-athletes, with previous stops at Oregon State (2010-2012), UC Irvine (2013-2014), and USC (2014 – 2021); Dr. Croom's research interests include racial equity in higher education, student-athletes' academic and career-related outcomes, anti-Blackness in higher education, and commodification of Black student-athletes.