



Webinar Series – Critical Issues in Collegiate Athletics

**Improving Graduation Rates of Division I Basketball and Football
Players – Whose Responsibility and What Strategies Work?**

Thursday, February 20, 2025 – 2:00-3:30 p.m. EST

MEET OUR PANELISTS



JANET BLADE, Ed.D., Chair, Department Sport Management, Director of Sport Administration, Delaware State University. Dr. Blade is a former Delaware State University NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR). During her FAR tenure, she served on the NCAA Committee for Academic Performance (CAP), the CAP Subcommittee for Appeals, the NCAA Supplemental Support Advisory Team, the NCAA HBCU Advisory Group, and the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Delegate Assembly. In addition, Dr. Blade chaired the DSU Athletic Council, a joint committee of DSU's Faculty Senate. She earned her B.S. from Eastern Illinois University, M.S. from Indiana State University, and Ed.D. from the United States Sports Academy.



YOLONDA BLACK, Athletic Learning Specialist and Academic Mentor Program Coordinator, The University of Georgia With a focus on collegiate foundational skills such as writing, reading annotation strategies, study skills, time management, and organization, Black ensures that athletes excel academically while balancing athletics commitments. She also assists students with learning disabilities using research-based strategies tailored to match individual learning styles. Black also mentors freshmen athletes, using student development theories and academic research-based practices to aid their transition from high school to college. As the Academic Mentor Program Coordinator, she oversees the recruitment, training, and supervision of the academic mentor staff. Black received her master's degree in Higher Education with a focus in Student Development and Enrollment Management from the University of Miami.



JENNIFER JACKSON, J.D., Academic Advisor, University of Oregon. Over the last decade plus, Jackson has worked with a variety of sports and currently advises football and softball Duck athletes. Jennifer's professional interests include current legal issues around NIL, Title IX, the NCAA, and the future of college sports. Before Oregon, Jennifer attended the University of Alabama law school and practiced law in Alabama for several years. A graduate of the University of Kansas and a member of their women's basketball team, she remains a faithful Jayhawks fan.



RONALD MOSES, Ph.D, 2024-25 President of the National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals, Executive Senior Associate Athletic Director for Internal Operations & Student-Athlete Welfare, Old Dominion University. At ODU, Moses provides leadership, oversight, and supervision related to internal operations of the athletics department, including the athletic, academic advising centers, the compliance program, alumni relations, sports supervision of the baseball program, and all facets of student-athlete welfare, including mental health and diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in addition to other duties. Dr. Moses earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia, Master's degree from Western Kentucky University, and Ph.D. from Kansas State University and is a proud veteran of the United States Army and Army National Guard



KENYATTA WALKER, Associate Director, Cox Communication Academic Center for Student-Athletes, Louisiana State University. Walker is an active member of the National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development (N4A), Women Leaders in College Sports (WL), and the Minority Opportunities Athletic Association (MOAA). Formerly, Walker served as the Associate Athletic Director of Academics and Senior Woman Administrator at Alabama A&M, the primary academic advisor for multiple sport programs at Prairie View A&M, an academic coordinator at the University of West Virginia, and an athletic academic advisor and tutor coordinator at Alabama State. Walker earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in Sociology from Georgia Southwestern State and another BA and a Masters from Alabama State.