



## HOW TO APPLY FOR A FREE STUDENT TICKET

### The Allen Sack National Symposium Advancing Integrity in College Sport Howard University – April 10, 2025

[APPLY HERE](#) for our one-day symposium to learn more about critical issues in college sport. Read below to learn more about the program and review questions and answers about policies related to free student tickets.



#### Why Our Donors/Sponsors Make It Possible for Students to Attend at No Charge

Conferences such as the Symposium are invaluable professional development activities for students. The Drake Group Education Fund is dedicated to removing financial barriers and making this enriching experience accessible to all students.

You get to hear and meet members of the national sports and higher education media, leaders and key influencers from national sports governance organizations and higher education

organizations working in their chosen career field, and nationally recognized experts in the economic and legal aspects of college athletics. Up to one hundred sports management, sports law, and other currently enrolled students in sports-related majors from colleges and universities within 60 miles of Washington D.C. (with preference given to students from HBCUs and other low-resourced institutions) will attend at no charge thanks to sponsors and donors. We believe you are the future leaders who will ensure that college athletics is a safe and rewarding experience, free from race and sex discrimination, and delivering on the promise of receiving a meaningful education.

Student attendees will receive:

- a complimentary subscription to the TDGEF newsletter;
- a complimentary student membership in The Drake Group, our sister organization working directly with Congress on policy issues;
- issue summaries and research papers on all topics covered at the symposium; and
- the opportunity to participate in the closing cocktail/networking gathering that enables them to meet and interact with panelists and experts.

## Event Overview

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The purpose of the 2025 Allen Sack National Symposium is to discuss how the landscape of college sports continues to evolve, examining the shifting dynamics between education, athlete compensation, mental health, and the commercialization of college athletics. Expert speakers will explore alternative academic pathways for college athletes beyond traditional four-year degrees and consider innovative academic models. Given the immense pressure on college athletes, the importance of supporting their mental health and well-being will also be a key focus. Additionally, we will address how the changing economic environment impacts gender and racial disparities in the hiring and compensation of women and people of color in coaching and administrative roles within college athletics.



## ***THE PROGRAM***

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**8:00-9:00am**            **REGISTRATION – COFFEE AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

**9:00-9:15am**            **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

**9:15-10:15am**            **PANEL 1: PANEL 1: Charting the New Landscape of College Athletics  
Post *House v NCAA***

The landmark *House v NCAA* case has fundamentally altered the landscape of college sports. This panel will delve into the critical questions arising from landmark settlement, exploring the evolving relationship between education, athlete compensation, and the commercialization of college athletics. The panel will further examine how these changes impact smaller institutions with limited resources and explore alternative models for collegiate athletics.

**10:30am-11:30pm**        **PANEL 2: New Era, New Rules: Changing the Academic Playbook for  
College Athletes**

The evolving landscape of college athletics has created ever-increasing demands on the time of college athletes in addition to full-time enrollment, academic degree progress, and other academic eligibility requirements. This panel session will explore alternative academic models, opportunities, and pathways for college athletes beyond traditional four-year degree programs, including the growing importance of post-eligibility academic options such as vocational training, apprenticeships, and trades.

**11:45am-12:45pm**        **AWARDS CEREMONY & LUNCH**

The luncheon features presentation of The Drake Group Education Fund (TDGEF) national awards. The awards program includes recipients of the TDGEF National Public Service Award, the TDGEF Student Journalism Prize for Investigative Reporting in Intercollegiate Athletics, the TDGEF Hero Award, and TDGEF “Making A Difference” Award, among others.

**12:45-1:30pm**            **POST-LUNCH FIRESIDE CHAT: *House Settlement/Title IX/Olympic  
Sports***

This conversation will delve into new Title IX issues, exploring how the evolving legal and economic framework of college athletics impacts gender equity. How has NIL impacted the gender gap in

compensation and sponsorship opportunities for women athletes and Olympic sport athletes? Are there disparities in access to NIL resources and support systems between men's and women's teams? Compensation and revenue sharing: How would the proposed *House v NCAA* settlement terms impact the distribution of revenue and compensation within college sports and affect gender equity? Are there potential avenues for increased revenue sharing models that better support women's sports?

**1:45-2:45pm**      **PANEL 3: Beyond the Game: Prioritizing College Athlete Mental & Physical Health**

Panelists will explore the importance of supporting college athlete mental health and well-being. Conference realignments have led to increased travel demands, longer seasons, and more pressure on college athletes. While these changes aim to enhance athletic competition and generate more revenue for universities, they inadvertently contribute to significant challenges for college athletes, particularly in terms of their mental and physical health and academic performance.

**3:00-4:00pm**      **The Price of Progress: How Changing Economics Will Impact Diversity in Coaching and Administration**

How does the changing economic landscape affect the hiring and compensation of women and people of color in coaching and administrative roles in college athletics? Our distinguished panelists will analyze subtle and overt biases in performance evaluations, hiring, and termination decisions and examine current data on hiring, compensation, and the representation of women coaches in men's sports.

**4:00-5:00pm**      **Networking Opportunities**

All attendees are invited to attend a post-symposium networking and cocktail reception.

**Who Are the Attendees?**

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National sports and higher education media, leaders, and key influencers from national sports governance organizations, NCAA Division I athletics programs, and national higher education and sports-related professional organizations, members of the U.S. Congress and their staff, higher education faculty, nationally recognized experts in the economic and legal aspects of college athletics, and members of the general public. One hundred invited sports management, sports law, and other currently enrolled students in sports-related majors from colleges and universities within 60 miles of Washington D.C. (with preference given to students from HBCUs and other low-resourced institutions) are invited to attend at no

charge thanks to sponsors and donors. These stakeholders represent an investment in the development of future change agents.

## Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

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**Q1: How many tickets are available and how are applicants selected?**

A1: Up to 100 students will be selected on a first come/first served basis from each of two groups of colleges and universities (lower-resourced institutions (Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs), Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), and community colleges) and Other. There is a limit of one free ticket per applicant and no more than 4 students will be selected from the same school unless a school or alumnus sponsors a student table for their institution or additional openings become available due to late cancellations.

**Q2: How soon will I know whether my application is successful?**

A2: Student selections/notifications begin on March 15, 2025, and all applicants will be notified of their selection by no later than April 5, 2025.

**Q3: Will I be able to sit with my classmates?**

A3: There is a notes field in the application where you can request seating with others. We will try to accommodate such requests but cannot guarantee that we can do so.

**Q4: How will tickets be received?**

A4: Your ticket will be waiting for you at the Armour J. Blackburn University Center Ballroom, 2397 6th Street NW, Washington, D.C. on the day of the event (Thursday, April 18, 2024). Please bring photo ID.

**Q5: What is the appropriate dress for the event?**

A5: Business attire.

**Q6: Will food be available, or do we leave for lunch?**

A6: A continental breakfast (coffee, tea, muffins, Danish, bagels and cream cheese) and a buffet lunch are provided at no charge. There is no need to leave the venue once you arrive. There is no food at the post-symposium networking/cocktail reception, but you will be provided with a ticket for a free beverage.

Additional questions? Email: [CollegeSportsSymposium@gmail.com](mailto:CollegeSportsSymposium@gmail.com)