

Webinar Series – Critical Issues in Collegiate Athletics

Thursday, May 15, 2025 2:00-3:30pmET

Webinar #48 - Confronting Division I Sports Subsidization and Financial Sustainability

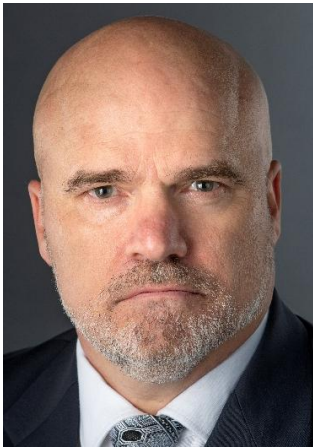
Meet Our Panelists



MICHAEL F. CAVANAGH, Moderator, Writer and Independent Researcher. As a researcher, Cavanagh focuses on the affordability issues in Division I college sports at a time of record student loan debt. He is the former president of Cavanagh Associates, an association management, marketing, and public policy consulting firm where he was involved in the launch and management of eleven successful associations, usually with Cavanagh serving as founding executive director.



INGRID WICKER MCCREE, Ed.D., Former Director of Athletics, North Carolina Central University. She was the first woman to hold the permanent title as the Director of Athletics at North Carolina Central University and is one of the longest-tenured athletic directors in NCCU history. She led the transition of NCCU from NCAA DII to NCAA Division I FCS membership in 2011. She began her career at NCCU as the head coach for women's volleyball and softball and later became the first coach in NCCU history to win conference championships in multiple sports. She was inducted into the NCCU Athletic Hall of Fame in '04, the George Washington University Hall of Fame in '12, and was later selected for induction into the CIAA John B. McLendon Hall of Fame in February '16.



B. DAVID RIDPATH, Ed.D. Professor of Sports Business at Ohio University in the College of Business, author, and former collegiate coach. He is often cited in worldwide media outlets as an expert on NCAA matters. Dr. Ridpath has appeared before Congressional committees and serves as an expert witness in numerous legal cases involving NCAA issues. An accomplished researcher, he has authored over 30 academic journal articles, 10 academic book chapters and monographs, and two books: *Tainted Glory: Marshall University, the NCAA, and One Man's Fight for Justice* and *Alternative Models of Sport Development in America: Solutions to a Crisis in Education and Public Health*.



NICHOLAS ZEPPOS, J.D., Chancellor Emeritus, Distinguished Professor of Law and Political Science, Vanderbilt University. Nicholas S. Zeppos rejoined the law faculty in 2020, where he teaches and studies civil procedure, after serving for more than a decade as Vanderbilt University's eighth chancellor. An esteemed legal scholar, teacher, and higher education leader, Chancellor Zeppos was honored in November 2019 with two new appointments as University Distinguished Professor and Cornelius Vanderbilt Chancellor Emeritus Chair, the highest appointments a university can bestow. He joined the Vanderbilt law faculty in 1987 and served as a professor of law and associate dean before joining the university administration as associate provost for academic affairs and vice chancellor and provost. He was named chancellor in 2008.



CONNIE ZOTOS, Ph.D., Senior Associate, Sports Management Resources, former Director of Athletics at Drew University. Dr. Zotos spent 42 years working in higher education as a sports management faculty member, college coach, and university athletic director. She was a head coach for 12 seasons at both NCAA Division II and Division III institutions and three-time Conference Coach of the Year. Dr. Zotos is a noted speaker and author in the areas of tiering a college athletic program, Title IX, and coach evaluation, employment, and compensation packages. During her tenure as Director of Athletics at Drew University, the Rangers enjoyed the most successful period in the history of the intercollegiate athletics program. Dr. Zotos is a member of the Sports Halls of Fame at Drew University and Rowan University, and a recipient of a *NACWAA Athletic Administrator of the Year* award, the *Garden State Award for Enduring Leadership in College Athletics*, and the *Women Leaders in College Sport Nike Lifetime Achievement Award*.