

Meet Katie Williamson



My name is Katie Williamson. I am a recent graduate of Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), where I played and studied for five years. I was able to earn both my bachelor's and master's degrees and play the sport I love, basketball. My bachelor's/undergraduate degree is in elementary education, and my master's degree is in sports and entertainment management. I have a strong passion for both teaching and sport.

All master's and doctoral programs at SCSU are required to include a capstone experience in their curriculum. When it came to deciding what I would like to write about for my capstone project, my advisor, Dr. Kevin McGinness, introduced me to another SCSU faculty member, Dr. Donna Lopiano, who suggested the name, image, and likeness (NIL) legislation database project. This was an excellent

opportunity to engage in research that would be immediately useful to athletics administrators, members of Congress grappling with challenging changes in college athlete compensation, and athletes facing taxation and other issues from their new employment opportunities, rather than a project more likely to gather dust on a bookshelf. It was also a great opportunity to work with Dr. Lopiano and other experts from The Drake Group. This respected national advocacy organization supports Congressional staff members as they develop legislation on college athletics. I enjoyed the process immensely, and I'm particularly grateful to Dr. Lopiano and Dr. Connee Zotos, another Drake Group expert, for their time and advice.

Throughout my college career, I served on various committees, including the NCAA Division II National Student-Athlete Advisory Council, where I gained valuable insight into NIL, what it means, and its impact on many student-athletes' lives across the country. When allowed to research and delve deeper into the laws and legislation regarding NIL, I was able to see the changes and improvements, which in turn will enable others to understand what NIL is and how they can benefit from it within the state they are playing in. What is exciting to see is earning money from NIL and how the laws have changed so much since 2020.

I currently teach in a primary school in Dublin, Ireland. This position is equivalent to an elementary education teacher. I'm enjoying this role and find it so rewarding, and playing for my Dublin basketball team, competing for the national cup. My dream, however, is to work in some capacity with student-athletes, combining my love of sport with working in the education system.