

## **Advocacy Update**

### **April 11 – April 15, 2011**

**Academic Standards for Student-Athletes** (April 11) – This opinion piece discusses the success/failure of the 2003 changes to academic standards by the NCAA. The standard for academic eligibility of incoming students was lowered in an effort to increase access to higher education for minority students. Gerald Gurney argues that the lower standards have not significantly increased minority participation in collegiate athletics and has allowed under-prepared students to compete, ultimately leading to academic failure in the collegiate setting. [Read more.](#)

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**Women Seen as Less Competent** (April 14) – This article discusses the psychology surrounding the assumed incompetence of women leaders. Studies are showing that people generally assume that male leaders are competent until proven otherwise, whereas women tend to be perceived as incompetent until they can prove that they are capable. These presumptions have made advancement particularly difficult for women as they are constantly fighting an uphill battle. [Read more.](#)

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**Equal Pay Day** (April 12) – April 12<sup>th</sup> marked Equal Pay Day. Women still earn only 77 cents to every dollar that men earn for the same work. Events across the country rallied support around the idea that women should be paid equally for doing the same work as their male counterparts. The National Women's Law Center collected blog posts and information throughout the day. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.