

Advocacy Update

March 14 – March 18, 2011

Gender Bias Investigation Abandoned (March 16) – In 2009, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights began an inquiry into gender bias in the college admissions process. The inquiry began in response to reports that schools, in an effort to minimize gender imbalances, were unfairly advantaging male applicants. Although the inquiry was aimed at college admissions processes, there was a sense that the undercurrent of the investigation related to athletics. The inquiry was suspended after the Committee had difficulty gathering reliable data from colleges and universities. The Committee was sharply divided on whether or not to abandon the investigation. However, four of the seven Committee members voted to abandon the investigation and keep all data collected private. [Read more.](#)

Women in the Academy: Leveling the Playing Field (March 18) - On Friday, May 13th, The Gender Studies Program along with the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life and the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Missouri-St. Louis are sponsoring a symposium to address issues of gender inequity in the academy. The keynote speaker, Dr. Rita R. Colwell, is Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland at College Park and Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Chairman of Canon US Life Sciences, Inc. Panels consisting from all UM campuses will lead discussions from 9:00am - 4:00pm. Location: University of Missouri-St. Louis campus, SGA Chamber, 3rd floor, Millennium Student Center. [Read more.](#)

Changing the Game: GLSEN Sports Project (March 18) – Recently launched, “Changing the Game,” a part of The GLSEN Sports Project, assists K-12 schools in creating and maintaining an athletic and physical education climate that is based on the core principles of respect, safety and equal access for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. The GLSEN Sports Project fills a critical gap and adds a vital new dimension to GLSEN’s work to create a world in which every child learns to accept and respect all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. [Read more.](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about "Changing the Game"

Advocating for Financial Rewards Based on Academic Success (March 18) - Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, NAACP president Ben Jealous and Richard Lapchick, chairman of the DeVos Sport Business Management Graduate Program in the College of Business Administration at the University of Central Florida are supporting a Knight Commission proposal to restructure the NCAA revenue distribution system for the Division I basketball tournaments. Currently, the revenue distribution process relies on wins and losses to determine the amount of money a school will receive from the NCAA. Instead, this proposal would distribute the revenue based on academic progress rates (APR). Supporters argue that this shift would encourage higher graduation rates among basketball athletes and also help to close the racial gap that exists in graduation rates. Currently, 91% of white student-athletes participating in the Division I NCAA basketball tournament graduate, while only 59% of African-American student-athletes participating in the tournament do. [Read more.](#)