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Athletic Case Management Service: Enhancing Self-Efficacy, Academic Services and Support Network Systems

Annette Renee Wilson

University of Detroit/Mercy

“Case Management Services is a student athlete driven strategy designed to coordinate academic services and strengthen support network systems for the retention, development, and graduation of student athletes.”

It has been said that the African-American student athlete's psychological adjustment to sports retirement or career termination will be a normal transition to the extent that the institution offers them a "true educational opportunity" and to the extent student athletes take advantage of such opportunities.

It is believed that institutions offer a "true educational opportunity" and NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Academic Eligibility standards would ensure that the better prepared student athlete could meet the challenges for institutions of higher learning.

However, the changes in academic standards were met with opposition from the African-American community. Various organizations and coaches feel that these new standards will disproportionately affect the African-American student athlete from a lower socioeconomic background. The African-American community is not opposed to academic standards; however, they are opposed to standards that hold individuals with few resources to those students (student athletes) with better educational resources.

Since the debate about academic eligibility and new information regarding life before and after sports have emerged, the NCAA has generated graduation reports for pre- and post-Proposition 48 legislation. The results indicate that the African-American student athlete, particularly the African-American male, graduates at a lesser rate than his or her White student athlete's counterpart and the general African-American population.

The results and newspaper headlines would indicate that it is about more than a better prepared student athlete, but the individual student athlete. It is about the overall development of the student athlete to be inclusive of support network systems management.

Case Management Services is offered as a solution to this never ending concern about the student athlete's life during and after sports involvement.

Case Management Services is a student athlete driven strategy designed to coordinate academic services and strengthen support network systems for the retention, development, and graduation of student athletes.

Feelings of isolation, time/stress management, locus of control, coaches, drugs and

educational values will be addressed in an attempt to answer the prevailing question:
"Why do African-American student athletes graduate at a lower rate?"

PRESENTER

Antoinette Renee Wilson is a graduate student in counselor education at the University of Detroit Mercy. She is employed as a Case Manager at the Bureau of Substance Abuse and Assistant Director of the Center for the Study of Sport at the University of Detroit Mercy.

Wilson is the founder of S.P.O.R.T.5., Incorporated (Schools and Parents Organized to Reclaim Talented Students). Since 1990, Wilson has been in consultation with the Michigan Department of Education, interscholastic coaches, counselors, parents, and student athletes in Michigan and California in the areas of NCAA Academic Eligibility and Clearinghouse, SAT and ACT preparation, drug prevention, career development, self-esteem, and Title IX.

Wilson received her Bachelor's and Master's of Arts from Michigan State University in 1988 and 1989, respectively. She is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sport Psychology and the National Association of Case Management.