

Lydia Bell

Lydia Bell is Director of Research and Policy at the NCAA. In this role, Lydia develops and oversees research projects on the academic and social experiences of student-athletes and works directly with NCAA staff, NCAA membership and other relevant parties to apply research findings to inform policymaking. She also manages the Innovations in Research and Practice Grant Program and the Graduate Student Research Grant Program. Prior to joining the NCAA, Lydia was an assistant professor of practice in the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Arizona. She has also held roles in academic advising and student affairs at Pima Community College and Bowdoin College. Lydia received her Ph.D. in Language, Reading and Culture and M.A. in Higher Education from the University of Arizona, and an A.B. in Government & Legal Studies and Sociology from Bowdoin College.

Geoff Bentzel

Geoff Bentzel rejoined the NCAA as the Director of Division I Governance in March after previously working on the academic and membership affairs staff between February 2017 and December 2021. As Director of Division I Governance, Bentzel serves as a staff liaison to the NCAA Division I Board of Directors, Division I Council and other standing committees. Between January 2022 and March 2024, Bentzel was the senior associate Athletic Director for Compliance at the University of Georgia, where he was responsible for the day-to-day management of the athletics compliance office. Before joining the NCAA, Bentzel practiced law for 13 years in Atlanta and San Jose.

Jason Burrow-Sanchez

Dr. Jason Burrow-Sánchez is a Professor of Counseling Psychology and the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative at the University of Utah. His research interests include the prevention and treatment of substance use for adolescents in school and community settings. His research has been funded at the local, state, and national levels and has published numerous articles, chapters and books. He is also licensed psychologist in the State of Utah.

Josh Gordon

Joshua A. Gordon, JD, MA is a Professor of Practice of Sports Business and Law, Woodard Family Foundation Fellow and the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) at the University of Oregon. Gordon is actively involved in NCAA and conference governance, including service on the Big Ten Joint Group, Big Ten Legislative Committee, NCAA FARA Executive Committee, and the NCAA DI Committee On Infractions.

A seasoned expert in conflict resolution and sports law, Gordon is the founder and principal of the Sports Conflict Institute, where he has consulted extensively on critical issues surrounding sports governance, crisis management, Title IX, organizational culture, and high-stakes negotiations. He is currently an arbitrator for the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), listed on both the Football and General lists, as well as a FIFA Mediator, handling sport-specific conflicts internationally. Additionally, Gordon serves as a salary arbitrator for Major League Baseball (MLB & MLBPA) and as an arbitrator for the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), and Chairs

the USATF SafeSport Appeals Committee. Gordon is a member of the LawInSport Editorial Board and speaks regularly at the intersection of sports law and dispute resolution. He has co-authored both "The Sports Playbook: Building Teams That Outperform Year After Year" and "Strategic Negotiation: Building Organizational Excellence", both of which have been widely regarded by professionals and academics alike.

Jim Davis

Jim Davis was appointed Eastern Illinois University's Faculty Athletics Representative in 2011. He has been a member of the Department of Geology and Geography at Eastern Illinois University for 22 years and currently serves as the department chair. Jim teaches a class on the geography of sports and researches the impact sports have on culture, the environment, and the local economies. Service is important to Jim and currently he is a member of the FARA executive committee and serves on the Ohio Valley Conference Championships Cabinet. On campus, Jim works with EIU's SAAC and is also the FAR liaison for the Ohio Valley Conference SAAC. In his role as FAR, Jim advocates for the students-athletes at Eastern Illinois and works to ensure that each of them has the best student-athlete experience possible. He also feels that it is important that the FAR is visible on campus and that we support the student-athlete both academically and athletically.

Joseph (Joe) Hanus, PhD, PE

Professor Joe Hanus appointed the United States Military Academy's Faculty Athletics Representative in the spring of 2021. On the faculty, he serves as the Deputy Director of the West Point Center for Innovation and Engineering. He retired from military active duty in December 2020 after 30 years of service as an US Army Engineer Officer. Colonel Joe Hanus served in a variety of command positions in combat engineering battalions in Germany and Korea, and professional engineering assignments with the US Army Corps of Engineers – including multiple combat deployments. Prior to his appointment as the West Point Faculty Athletics Representative, he was the Head Officer Representative for the Army Men's Soccer Team for 10 years. During his tenure, the team's GPA rose nearly every term with 17 members making the Dean's List and 38 players selected for the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll. Professor Hanus advocates strongly for the student-athletes across the Academy and strives to make a positive impact in supporting personal wellness, academic endeavors, and all efforts towards developing each student into a leader of character for the Nation and US Army.

Mariah Murdock

Mariah is an Assistant Director of Research at the NCAA. She serves as the research liaison to Division II and conducts research related to student-athlete academic success (ASR) and student-athlete well-being. Prior to joining the NCAA, Mariah was a graduate assistant in the Department of Psychological Science and an intern at the Office of Institutional Research and Decision Support at Ball State University. She received her M.A. in Clinical Psychology with a certificate in Institutional Research from Ball State University (2024) and her B.A. in Psychology from Indiana University (2022).

Amy Phelps

Dr. Amy Phelps is an Associate Professor of Practice in Statistics at the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business. She coordinates the multi-section, two-semester sequence of Business Analytics required for all undergraduate business majors.

Dr. Phelps strives to enhance the instruction of Business Analytics by seeking methods that provide students with practical skills and real-life applications. This is achieved through the use of statistical software and her dedication to service learning. This allows her students to see applications of statistics first-hand while helping local non-profit organizations assess their programs.

Dr. Phelps' research background is specialized in biostatistics. She consults with the anesthesiology department at Magee Women's Hospital in Pittsburgh and is widely published in journals, including International Journal of Obstetric Anesthesia, Journal of Clinical Anesthesia and The Journal of Pain.