

## NCAA LGBTQ SUBCOMMITTEE STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATION

The NCAA association-wide subcommittee for LGBTQ inclusion understands that LGBTQ student-athletes, coaches, and administrators too often endure social stigma and emotional trauma on the court, in the classroom, and in the workplace which serves as a bar to fair and equitable competitive and learning environments.

We celebrate the courage and fortitude of student-athletes, coaches and administrators who have bravely revealed their sexual identities to teammates, colleagues, and their entire communities.

Furthermore, we take tremendous pride in the support of all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals, especially those associated with the organization, member institutions, and affiliates.

In recent months, we've seen an All-American Division I women's basketball player and top WNBA draft pick, as well as a Division I football player who will very likely become the first openly gay professional football player, publicly declare that they are gay. We also saw the first active college football player - a Division III student-athlete - make a similar announcement.

These are just a few of the many daring individuals who have taken risks in their lives just to be true to themselves and to their friends and families. While we may not all fully realize what LGBTQ individuals have to face on a day-to-day basis, we can all acknowledge the boldness of their proclamations and the need for fair and inclusive opportunities for all student-athletes.

Moreover, the NCAA opposes all forms of discrimination against individuals on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, race, ability, national origin and religious belief.

Because systemic bias still exists in our country, we actively encourage those of all sexual orientation and gender identities, especially those that do not identify as LGBTQ - "straight allies" - to join with us in speaking out against all forms of prejudice targeted toward our LGBTQ student-athletes and colleagues. And we hope that they will join us as we support and celebrate all members of our diverse community.

*NCAA LGBTQ Subcommittee of the Committee on Women's Athletics and Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee*

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