The Division II Presidents Council in April 2015 approved 10 programs and initiatives to receive funding through the division’s Foundation for the Future effort. The FFF allocated $5.7 million to programs and initiatives that support the division’s strategic plan. Program nominations were submitted to a representative task force that included members of the Presidents Council and the Division II Planning and Finance Committee.

Now that the 10 programs have one year under their belt, the following is a brief summary of progress through calendar year 2017.

**ACADEMIC METRICS REVIEW**

**Brief description of the initiative:** The program will review the division’s metrics for academic success, improve the accuracy of data collection and strengthen the foundation upon which academic policy decisions are made.

**Goal(s) in the Division II strategic plan to which the initiative pertains:** Develop and maintain metrics to help evaluate and advance academic success.

**Group(s) primarily responsible for implementation:** The Division II Academic Requirements Committee.

**Allocation for 2016-17:** $100,000.

**Status/metrics for success:** $100,000 was allocated to cover vendor fees and expenses. The research phase included surveys and interviews with a representative sample of 25 Division II institutions. The response from those institutions was overwhelmingly positive, as personnel at each were enthusiastic about shoring up deficiencies in their data collection and submission processes. The Academic Requirements Committee will review these findings at its February 2018 meeting and determine next steps.

**DEGREE-COMPLETION AWARDS**

**Brief description of the initiative:** $440,000 will be distributed over five years (2016-21) to provide additional funding to student-athletes who have exhausted their athletics eligibility to help them complete their undergraduate degrees.

**Goal(s) in the Division II strategic plan to which the initiative pertains:** Develop and maintain metrics to help evaluate and advance academic success; support student-athletes in their efforts not only to complete their undergraduate degrees but also pursue postgraduate work.

**Group(s) primarily responsible for implementation:** The Division II Degree-Completion Awards Committee.

**Allocation for 2016-17:** $88,000

**Status/metrics for success:** The allocation for 2016-17 was used in its entirety, meeting the goal of providing financial assistance to additional student-athletes to help them complete their degree.
Brief description of the initiative: The existing program has created a successful collaboration between coaches and governance in football, women’s volleyball, soccer and tennis – so much so in fact that the goal is to expand the program to all sports.

Goal(s) in the Division II strategic plan to which the initiative pertains: Enhance coaches’ engagement and fortify their role as advocates for the value of Division II athletics.

Group(s) primarily responsible for implementation: Several governance committees along with NCAA staff.

Allocation for 2016-17: $33,000.

Status/metrics for success: The program added five sports: baseball, cross country, track and field, softball, and wrestling. Among accomplishments in 2016-17:

- Sport administrators, known as a connectors, were hired for each of the eight sports (the three existing sports plus the five that were added in 2016-17).
- Each DII conference appointed a coach representative for each of the eight sports they sponsor.
- Each sport’s connector held monthly teleconferences with the coach representatives, and minutes were distributed to conference colleagues.
- The connectors attended their respective sport’s national championship and the coaches association meeting.

Dollars applied in 2016-17: $24,801 to program expenses, including a $5,000 stipend to four connectors, and $4,800 to reimburse travel expenses for six connectors.

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Brief description of the initiative: Helper Helper is an online community engagement platform that makes it simple for schools and organizations to connect student-athletes to meaningful volunteer experiences and track their community engagement efforts.

Goal(s) in the Division II strategic plan to which the initiative pertains: Provide service and engagement opportunities for current student-athletes.

Group(s) primarily responsible for implementation: The Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, in conjunction with NCAA staff.

Allocation for 2016-17: $40,000.

Status/metrics for success: The entirety of the funds were used to support the following: (1) create a dashboard showing which DII schools across the country have contributed; (2) email, phone and tech support for all 309 DII schools (this expense also included updates on the technology as requested by various institutions; (3) web training for schools and conferences; (4) meeting with SAAC at the NCAA Convention; and (5) providing newsletters and updates on competition to member schools.
Brief description of the initiative: The initiative provides Division II schools and conferences with an interactive educational training program to help administrators develop ethical compliance programs.

Goal(s) in the Division II strategic plan to which the initiative pertains: Develop, enhance and increase educational opportunities and services to support and maintain an effective compliance system; Develop, maintain and share compliance tools to help institutions and conferences fortify their day-to-day compliance operations.

Group(s) primarily responsible for implementation: The Division II Legislation Committee and Membership Committee [as recommended and developed by the National Association for Athletics Compliance (NAAC) and endorsed by the Division II Athletics Directors Association (D2 ADA) and the Division II Conference Commissioners Association (D2 CCA).

Allocation for 2016-17: $133,000.

Status/metrics for success: The National Association for Athletics Compliance (NAAC) received $133,000 to develop an online training tool to deliver rules education to Division II institutions, known as the D2 Education Program. The program covering 54 lessons was introduced nationally February 20, 2017. Direct emails were distributed to all DII senior compliance administrators, athletics directors, conference commissioners, and the D2 CCACA listserv. As of March 14, 127 individuals representing 101 institutions and conferences have registered to participate in the program. Ninety of those individuals have already logged into the program and begun their training.

Brief description of the initiative: A comprehensive online coaches education program that will deliver legislative and health and safety content to Division II coaches.

Goal(s) in the Division II strategic plan to which the initiative pertains: Enhance coaches’ engagement and fortify their role as advocates for the value of Division II athletics.

Group(s) primarily responsible for implementation: Several governance committees along with NCAA staff.

Allocation for 2016-17: $500,000.

Status/metrics for success: Approximately $150,000 was allocated for consultant fees and expenses in 2016-17, with the remaining dollars expected to roll over to continue development of the online system in 2017-18. Division II coaches were surveyed via Coaches Connection teleconferences and focus groups to ensure that topics covered within the system are properly prioritized, and to identify the system requirements necessary to make the user experience as positive as possible for coaches. The program will be launched spring of 2018 and is expected to replace the current Division II coaches recruiting exam by 2020.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ADs

Brief description of the initiative: This enhances an existing mentoring program that the Division II Athletics Directors Association helps administer, targeting aspiring ADs, particularly women and ethnic minorities. It also targets programming for veteran ADs to help them manage their athletics operations more effectively.

Goal(s) in the Division II strategic plan to which the initiative pertains: Provide leadership and development opportunities for athletics administrators, coaches and faculty.

Group(s) primarily responsible for implementation: The Division II Athletics Directors Association, the Division II Membership Committee and the Division II Nominating Committee.

Allocation for 2016-17: $86,500.

Status/metrics for success: Among goals for the D2 ADA was to elevate programming for veteran athletics directors during the NACDA convention. The association used $3,500 of its allocation to invite Justin Patton and Janet Judge to present sessions at the June 2017 convention on best practices for leadership and effective management in today’s changing landscape of college athletics. The ADA also provided certificates to the mentees who completed the NCAA Mentoring Program in 2016-17. The remaining $83,000 of the allocation supported administration of the mentoring program enhancement (additional training sessions for mentors, and funds for mentees to visit their mentors on campus) and the New AD Orientation (additional educational and training sessions at the NCAA national office) for 2016-17.

SAAC SUPER REGION CONVENTION

Brief description of the initiative: To provide a SAAC convention each year to enhance student-athlete participation in the governance structure and enable student-athletes and administrators to better understand issues affecting Division II student-athletes.

Goal(s) in the Division II strategic plan to which the initiative pertains: Ensure student-athlete participation in the governance structure at the local, conference and national levels.

Group(s) primarily responsible for implementation: The Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, in conjunction with NCAA staff.

Allocation for 2016-17: There was no allocation for 2016-17 as the first “Super Region” Convention was recently held in November 2017 in Washington, D.C. A report with outcomes from the first Super Region Convention will be due in March 2018.
TRANSPORTATION FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Brief description of the initiative:** The division will begin providing bus transportation to Division II championships for community members who participate in community engagement events.

**Goal(s) in the Division II strategic plan to which the initiative pertains:** Strengthen partnerships and relationships with host communities, schools, coaches associations, media and sponsors at the local, regional and national levels.

**Group(s) primarily responsible for implementation:** NCAA staff.

**Allocation for 2016-17:** $25,000

**Status/metrics for success:** Bus transportation began being provided during the 2017 winter sports festival and at fall sport championships.

CONFERENCE DISTRIBUTION

**Brief description of the initiative:** This is a one-time distribution of $50,000 to each of the 24 Division II conferences to be used in any of the following areas: academic support, broadcast support, officiating improvement and branding efforts.

**Goal(s) in the Division II strategic plan to which the initiative pertains:** Membership and Positioning Initiatives.

**Group(s) primarily responsible for implementation:** The Division II Conference Commissioners Association.

**Allocation for 2016-17:** $1.2 million ($50,000 for each conference).

**Status/metrics for success:** The following conferences used at least a portion of their funding to support various initiatives (with appropriate funding area identified) in 2016-17:

- **California Collegiate Athletic Association** (branding efforts): $2,200 to redesign the conference’s website.

- **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (officiating improvement): $3,914 to help support the CIAA officials coordinator meeting to strategize ways to recruit, educate and retain officials. The meeting included coordinators from all conference sports.

- **Conference Carolinas** (branding efforts): $7,724 to retain a consultant to conduct a survey regarding the conference brand and ways to enhance it.

- **East Coast Conference** (broadcast support): $21,123 for member schools to purchase streaming equipment to upgrade capabilities as the league moves toward creating the ECC Network in the fall of 2017.

- **Great Lakes Valley Conference** (broadcast support): $18,000 to assist members with the annual cost of Blue Frame Technologies for streaming along with other tech upgrades for streaming.

- **Heartland Conference** (officiating improvement and branding efforts): $7,000 total – $3,000 to provide training opportunities to improve officiating in men’s and women’s soccer; and $4,000 to retain a consultant to review conference positioning and begin re-branding effort.

- **Mountain East Conference** (broadcast support): $10,000 to support/enhance annual video and radio broadcast efforts for the conference.

- **Northeast-10 Conference** (branding efforts): $50,000 to conduct a complete rebranding effort for the NE10, including research, campaign development, logo design and promotion.

- **Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference** (broadcast support): $50,000 to allow each member institution to upgrade streaming and coverage capabilities.

- **South Atlantic Conference** (officiating improvement): $850 to help cover expenses for a men’s basketball officiating clinic.