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NUA President Eric Cooper to Deliver Keynote At NCAA Accelerating Academic Success Program Conference

SYOSSET, N.Y., December 10, 2014 — Dr. Eric Cooper, Founder and President of the [National Urban Alliance for Effective Education](#), will deliver the keynote address to the NCAA Accelerating Academic Success Program Conference on December 13, 2014, at the InterContinental New Orleans in Louisiana.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Eric Cooper and for him to share the great work of the NUA. We feel his passionate striving toward a world in which barriers to high levels of learning borne of racism, sexism and economic disadvantage are eliminated for all children are particularly relevant to student athletes," said Bernard Franklin, NCAA executive vice president of education, community engagement and chief inclusion officer.

NUA has provided professional development, advocacy and organizational guidance that transform urban and suburban schools. NUA's approach is guided by the [Pedagogy of Confidence](#), an approach to educating all students based on the fearless expectation and support for the high intellectual performance of all students, especially those who are dependent on the school and community for the skills and support needed to attain high achievement. NUA uncovers strengths of students and teachers and then builds on those strengths. NUA's CEO Yvette Jackson, the author of *Pedagogy of Confidence*, will be attending the conference.

Cooper is a renowned speaker and education expert who has worked with school systems across the nation to build new dialogues, expand perspectives and implement meaningful changes in school climate and curriculum. He will discuss the Pedagogy of Confidence in detail, its promise to support today's student athletes and those who educate them, as well as opportunities for partnerships with institutions.

"College athletes exhibit one aspect of the NUA's Pedagogy of Confidence," said Cooper." Their physical strengths are identified early, nurtured and rewarded, though quite the opposite

happens with the intellectual and cognitive side. By focusing on the strengths of student-athletes, we work to bridge the gap.”

In addition, the NCAA is announcing a joint effort to work with AASP colleges and universities and the NUA to build on good efforts underway at higher education institutions to reverse the arc of failure on which so many student athletes find themselves.

Dr. Norman C. Francis, the president of Xavier University of Louisiana will also present during the conference’s chancellors and presidents sessions. Dr. Francis has the longest tenure of any contemporary college president in American history with 46 years at the helm of Xavier University of Louisiana.

Limited-resource institutions have been invited to attend the inaugural conference that will provide a broad-based schedule of programming that benefits chancellors and presidents, athletics departments, academic advisors, registrars, development and those interested in the academic success of student-athletes. It will also provide the opportunity for inter-institutional discussions on issues and solutions among individuals from institutions that may have similar missions, demographics, challenges and successes.

In addition to NUA, NCAA has partnered with organizations to provide a program that goes beyond athletics: [The Fund Raising School](#) (Indiana University, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy), and the [National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics](#) (N4A).

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Based in Syosset, N.Y., and founded in 1989 at Columbia's Teachers College with The College Board, the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education provides student-focused professional development, advocacy and organizational guidance to expand and accelerate student achievement. NUA works with teachers, school administrators and communities to identify strengths to leverage the needs and break down barriers to achievement and transform schools.