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Press Release (Immediate): Open Letter to the President and His Administration

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Please accept the attached “Open Letter on Higher Education to the President of the United States and His Administration” as an immediate press release. Since our founding in 1999, Drake Group volunteers (college faculty, administrators, coaches and concerned citizens) have worked to reclaim academic primacy in higher education and to defend academic integrity in the face of the commercialized college sports entertainment industry.

This letter addresses the challenge to get academics-over-athletics priorities re-established at America’s colleges and universities that are held captive to the NCAA’s commercial interests—asking for assistance from the executive branch of government to see that compliance to federal requirements for the *NCAA*’s tax exemptions are enforced. It is unfortunate that many of our nation’s top research universities have drifted from their educational mission and instead, have allowed big-time college sports to operate as unrelated businesses rather than an integral part of higher education.

We believe it is time to address the government’s subsidization of the *NCAA*—to hold the *NCAA* accountable for the substantial financial support it receives from America’s taxpayers and to halt the *NCAA*’s misuse of federal tax policies.

Finally, this letter concludes by stating: "If America is going to continue to maintain a position of leadership on the 21st century's world stage, then it not only needs to invest in its institutions of higher education to ensure our nation's continued competitiveness and security, but it also needs to get its educational priorities right— restoring academic primacy to higher education."

The letter is appended and also attached for ease of reference. It will also be made accessible at The Drake Group's website <http://thedrakegroup.org/>.