Friends and members of The Drake Group are invited to help us make the May 19, 2022 inaugural *Allen Sack National Symposium: Advancing Integrity in College Sports* a success for students following in our footsteps.

One of our most important goals for the event is to have half of all our attendees be SPONSORED sports management, sports law, sports journalism, and other students interested in sports-related professions. Our vision is to have 100 students in attendance at the Washington DC National Press Club with priority given to attendees of local Historically Black Colleges and Universities (13 HBCUs are within an easy drive to the symposium’s venue). **Why?** We want them to be inspired to make positive change happen and be educated on critical topics. **We believe you see the value of developing the next generation of changemakers and we invite you to help us by underwriting this incredible student opportunity.**

The Symposium will be a powerful in-person experience for college athletes and experts on how to speak to members of Congress such as Senator Christopher Murphy (CT) and Representative Lori Trahan (MA) about the need for collegiate athletic reform.

The student and attendees will also be part of critical conversations on:

- Current Congressional legislative initiatives to address the economic and educational exploitation of college athletes (a majority of whom are Black competing in revenue sports) and remedy the absence of athletic injury protection (insurance, medical expenses, and the devastating long-term consequences of brain trauma);
Coaching and other forms of mental, physical, and emotional abuse that remain unaddressed by the NCAA or its member institutions; and

A debate across the political aisle on how best to structure guardrails that will continue to give college athletes the right to monetize their own names, images, and likenesses and explore entrepreneurial sport business possibilities – the same employment rights as other college students.

Moderated by Award Winning National Sport Journalists

Bob Costas
28 Emmy Awards, MLB, NBC Sports 12 Olympic Games
Christine Brennan
USA Today, CNN, PBS, NewsHour, ABC News, NPR
Kevin Blackistone
Washington Post sports columnist ESPN, NPR

In addition, and even more importantly for their future careers, the students in attendance will receive the following mentorship and networking opportunities:

- Personal interaction with members of our Board of Directors who will be visiting every student table with an open invitation to contact the Drake Group leadership with questions;
- A complimentary Drake Group membership;
- Complete copies of every bill discussed and the one-page “leave behinds” that serve as summaries for legislative assistants in Congressional offices;
- Encouragement from all of us in attendance to contact their elected representatives and be advocates for change; and
- A closing cocktail/networking gathering that enables them to meet panelists and experts.

We are serious about developing the next generation of changemakers and being able to do so in person will require support from generous people such as yourself.

Would you please consider this request to sponsor student attendance? $250 underwrites the actual hard costs of each attendee. We would love to have 100 students experiencing this event. Few of us can afford the $2,000 sponsorship of a student benefactor table – but some of us can. I’ve purchased mine as have several of our board members. Several other Board members have “chipped in” together to sponsor a student benefactor table. -- Donna Lopiano, President, The Drake Group
We would so appreciate your “chipping in” by contributing any amount toward sponsoring student attendance. While we priced student purchase of tickets well below the actual $250 cost, even a $50 ticket is too much for many of the students we are targeting. So, for those of you who remember the common refrain of street sports -- no “chipsies” on windows! -- please consider making a contribution in any amount under the “chipping in for student attendance” donation option here.

Please also know that we are paying students from the George Washington University Business School Sport, Event, and Hospitality management program to work as our event management team for the event.

Click here for Symposium details – we’d love to have you attend!

Your support for the first class of the Allen Sack Symposium student attendees would be greatly appreciated! We’d appreciate your donation by May 1 so we can recruit students to attend.

P.S. If you haven’t yet paid your annual membership dues, you can ‘kill two birds with one stone’ here!

For the most current information on The Drake Group, follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram, or visit us at www.thedrakegroup.org. Watch the Critical Issues in Collegiate Athletics Webinar Series on our YouTube channel: College Athletics The Drake Group.

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The Drake Group is an academic think tank working to better educate the U.S. Congress and higher education decision-makers about critical issues in intercollegiate athletics for the purpose of ensuring that the promise of college athletics is realized for all stakeholders. Copyright: CC BY-NC-ND