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William Paterson College

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Sports, Discrimination, and Career Preferences: Examining Big Red Football

Marc Williams

William Paterson College

Preliminary survey results suggested differences in football players' choices of major and future plans by race.

This document reports on a pilot study that sought: (1) To see how athletes viewed discrimination in sports. (2) To examine athletes' choices in college majors and future goals. A self-administered questionnaire was devised for completion by male football players 19 years of age or older at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The questionnaire consisted of 37 questions and took approximately 15 minutes to complete. There were 39 questionnaires distributed and returned, for a 100% response rate. Results suggested there were serious differences in the majors and future career plans of African Americans and European American football players. A reliability test was performed for the discrimination scale created and produced an alpha score of .75. The range of 15-39 was implemented. A value of 15 indicated that the respondent strongly agreed that football discriminates against African Americans. A value of 39 indicated that the respondent strongly disagreed that football discriminates against African Americans. There was a t-score of -5.03. The findings also showed differences in the football players' choices of major and future plans by race.

PRESENTER

Marc Williams is one of the Student Representatives to the William Paterson College Board of Trustees, and serves on the Minority Affairs and Finance Committees. Marc is the founder and editor of *The Informer*, a campus newsletter for African American and Latino students. He is also a Resident Assistant and the creator of the dorm newsletter, *The B-Files*. Marc is the Vice President of Brothers For Awareness (BFA), acts as the historian for his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Information Research Technology (IRT) Department. Marc is one of the student mentors for the National Sociology Program, Minority Opportunity through Student Transformation (MOST). He is a recipient of the 1995 National Science Foundation grant and a participant in the 1995 Undergraduate Summer Research Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he received honorable mention for his paper. Marc, who was included in the 1996 edition of *Who's Who Among College Students*, is the producer and writer of the William Paterson College Football music video. He is also a member of the Alpha Lamda Delta Freshman Honor Society, and the National Sociology Honor Society, Alpha Kappa delta. Marc is the recipient of the following awards: Verdell Rountree Scholarship, William Paterson African American Academic Scholarship, William Paterson College Academic Excellence Scholarship, and the Black Student Association Academic Achievement Award.