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ATTN: Association for Applied Sport Psychology

RE: AASP Diversity in Sport Conference

To whom it may concern,

The 2021 AASP Diversity in Sport Conference (DISC) marked the fifth annual event in this conference series. The conference was hosted virtually by UNC Greensboro on April 16th-17th, 2021. Consistent with the previous AASP-HBCU/Diversity in Sport Conferences, this event was primarily a student-led conference targeted to traditionally underrepresented populations, and individuals who are interested in careers in applied Sport and Exercise Psychology (SEP). Moreover, the conference was designed to promote diversity and inclusion and dialogue in applied SEP settings. Overall, we believe the conference achieved these aims. Below, we offer brief impressions of the two-day event.

While we would have rather been in person as the previous iterations of this conference have been, having the conference virtually provided a broader reach than what we could have seen for an in-person event. We had 25+ presentations with 50+ speakers. Additionally, we had over 150 people register for the conference (95 students, 56 professionals). We were able to hold numerous presentations asynchronously and synchronously. All posters were available asynchronously via our website. All other presentations (i.e., lectures, workshops, panels) took place synchronously and were recorded and sent to all attendees at the conclusion of the conference.

The conference began Friday morning with a welcome address from Dr. Kensa Gunter, where she shared a brief history of the conference and some AASP initiatives centered on diversity. The welcome address was followed by our first keynote speaker, Dr. Melicia Whitt-Glover – President and CEO of Gramercy Research Group and Executive Director of the Council on Black Health. Dr. Whitt-Glover's title was, *"My Journey in Health Equity Research: Unbossed, Unbought, and Unapologetic."* The talk followed her journey to where she is today in health equity research, where she provided advice to students about the importance of mentorship.

Following the first keynote we had two breakout sessions in the afternoon – both being concurrent sessions. The first breakout session included our first lecture series and our first workshop series. The second breakout session included our second lecture series and our second workshop series. Each lecture presenter had 15 minutes in total and each workshop

presenter had 30 minutes in total. Therefore, there were four lectures in each lecture series and two workshops in each workshop series. Day one concluded Friday afternoon.

We started off day two (Saturday) with concurrent sessions, which included our first panel (*Advocacy within applied sport and exercise psychology settings: An introduction for novice practitioners*) and our third workshop series.

Following these morning sessions, we had our second keynote speaker Dr. Angel Brutus – Assistant Athletic Director of counseling and sport psychology as a member of Mississippi State University’s sport medicine and performance team. Dr. Brutus’s talk was titled, “*Death by a thousand cuts: The impact of moral injury in counseling and sport psychology.*” She provided attendees with a novel concept ‘moral injury,’ which resonated with students and professionals alike.

The conference concluded with a final lecture series. Attendees also took the time to view an asynchronous panel titled, “*Diversity and Inclusion in Sports Medicine.*” The conference concluded early Saturday afternoon after these sessions.

At the conclusion of the conference we asked attendees to fill out a post-conference survey. We received positive feedback about the event. On a 5 point likert scale from 1 = Strongly Disagree to 5 = Strongly Agree, participants felt that expectations for what I wanted to get out of this event were met ( $M = 4.59, SD = .59$ ), the subject matter was presented effectively ( $M = 4.77, SD = .43$ ), speakers were knowledgeable about the topic ( $M = 4.76, SD = .44$ ), and as a result of the conference, attendees gained new knowledge applicable to their training/work ( $M = 4.45, SD = .67$ ). One participant shared, “*Thank you all for your perseverance and organization over such an extended period. The presentations were very timely and very real. I left the conference feeling reconnected to this work and energized to contribute.*” The only constructive feedback that was received was that we could have held presenters closer to their allotted time and that we could have extended the time for presentations. This feedback will be used to help with future conference planning. Finally, participants strongly agreed that they would attend the conference again in the future ( $M = 4.63, SD = .66$ ) and that the overall quality of the conference program was high ( $M = 4.81, SD = .39$ ).

Overall, we believe the conference was a huge success. We thank AASP for their support for this event.

Sincerely,

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Conference Co-Coordinator  
UNC Greensboro