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NEWS RELEASE

DANIEL CURRAN APPOINTED TO NCAA TASK FORCE ON SPORTS WAGERING, WILL HELP ANALYZE NATIONAL STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

DAYTON, Ohio — Daniel J. Curran, president of the University of Dayton, has been appointed to a National Collegiate Athletic Association task force on sports wagering.

A sociologist by training, Curran was appointed by NCAA President Myles Brand to be part of the 26-member national task force. Curran has conducted research in gambling and white-collar crime.

According to a newly released NCAA survey, almost 35 percent of male student-athletes and 10 percent of female student-athletes took part in some type of sports wagering in the past year. Most gambling or sports wagering happened at the Division III level, though nearly 5 percent of Division I college football players and 4.4 percent of basketball players admitted to gambling-related behavior. NCAA rules forbid gambling on college and pro sports.

The NCAA surveyed 21,000 athletes in a comprehensive survey that focused on wagering activities ranging from buying lottery tickets to playing slot machines.

The task force, chaired by the Rev. Edward A. Malloy, president of Notre Dame University, is expected to analyze the survey and propose recommendations. Those could include expanded education efforts, proposed NCAA legislation or suggestions for legislation at the state and federal levels.

“The NCAA is being proactive about addressing this problem,” said Curran, who sits on the NCAA’s Division I board of directors — the chief executives who are responsible for overseeing legislation for 318 institutions in the NCAA’s top division. “It’s a fairly significant

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percentage of student-athletes involved in gambling activities. The integrity of intercollegiate athletics is compromised if athletes are influenced or somehow impact the scores in games. As a criminologist, I think I can give some insights that would be helpful to addressing this issue.”

As a new member of the Division I board of directors, Curran recently participated in discussions and helped shape NCAA academic reforms designed to improve the graduation rate of student-athletes. While student-athletes graduate at a higher rate than the student body on most college campuses, higher education has been criticized for a poor track record of graduating athletes in the high-profile, big-money sports of basketball and football. Starting in 2007, schools can be penalized if they do not graduate an acceptable percentage of student-athletes. Schools will put at risk post-season play and scholarships.

The NCAA is a voluntary association of about 1,200 colleges and universities, athletic conferences and sports organizations devoted to the administration of intercollegiate athletics.

Curran, president of the University of Dayton for nearly two years, has involved himself in a number of other high-profile areas, particularly in economic development and technology. Ohio Gov. Bob Taft named him to the Ohio Aerospace and Defense Advisory Council, and he sits on the board of the Dayton Development Coalition, a group that sets regional economic development priorities. He also serves on the executive committee of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce.

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To arrange media interviews with **Dan Curran**, contact **Teri Rizvi** or **Linda Robertson** at (937) 229-3241. For more background on the NCAA Sports Wagering Task Force, see www.ncaa.org.