

## **FLC enters Negotiated Resolution with NCAA**

Fort Lewis College and the NCAA Division II Committee on Infractions have reached a Negotiated Resolution Agreement following a collaborative inquiry into past eligibility certification processes. This agreement concludes a nearly three-year review initiated by FLC after administrators discovered inconsistencies in how student-athlete eligibility was certified during a prior period of administrative transition.

The process began after FLC administrators discovered a potential certification issue, dating back to 2022. The inquiry confirmed that nearly all of the student-athletes involved would have been eligible had the amateurism and initial eligibility certification processes been completed in a timely manner. Only one student-athlete was found to be definitively ineligible under NCAA academic standards.

Upon discovery, FLC immediately self-reported the issue to the NCAA and fully cooperated throughout the investigative process. “This was a serious matter, and from the beginning we made it a top priority,” said Chief Operating Officer Steve Schwartz, who oversaw the process for FLC. “We took responsibility, worked closely with the NCAA enforcement staff, and used the process to strengthen our compliance practices. We responded with transparency, urgency, and integrity to address this issue and to make sure this error will never be repeated.”

Once FLC Athletics identified the issue, they voluntarily reported it to the NCAA and implemented immediate corrective actions. The violations were unintentional, not designed to provide a competitive advantage, and the individuals directly responsible for the compliance failures are no longer employed by the College.

To ensure accountability and prevent future errors, Fort Lewis College has:

- Invested in additional compliance staff and training
- Voluntarily participated in the NCAA Compliance Blueprint program
- Implemented industry best practices and oversight protocols