

# ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION STUDENT AFFAIRS, MARKETING, AND ENROLLMENT

June 17, 2021

---

**ACTION: Approve New Athletics Program at Chadron State College**

---

Board Policy 3710 Athletic: Program Guidelines <https://www.nscs.edu/policy-manual/detail/42-3710-athletics%3B%20program%20guidelines> establishes that “Any sports added to the athletic program, which are not now existing, require Board approval.” Pursuant to this policy Chadron State College is requesting Board approval to add Women’s Wrestling to the list of current varsity sports beginning with the 2021-22 season.<sup>1</sup> Participation in women’s wrestling is growing rapidly nationally and within CSC’s recruiting region. Women’s wrestling allows CSC to continue its progress in addressing gender equity issues in athletics through the third prong of the OCR test. The addition of women’s wrestling will enhance student enrollment by 30-35 students by 2023. Women’s wrestling fits well with our current men’s program.

<sup>1</sup>Chadron State College currently offers six Men’s Sports including: Basketball, Football, Wrestling, Rodeo, Cross Country, and Track and Field. CSC currently offers seven Women’s Sports including: Basketball, Cross Country, Track and Field, Softball, Rodeo, Golf and Volleyball.

## Growth of Women’s Wrestling

The growth of women’s wrestling in CSC’s region has been rapid. Although not yet a sponsored sport by Nebraska’s High School Activities Association, more than 200 individuals participated in the State Tournament sponsored by the Nebraska Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Association (NSWCA) in 2021. In Colorado, more than 400 athletes participated in a state championship. In addition, there is an unmet demand for collegiate programs as women’s wrestling grows nationally. (See attachments)

The NCAA identified women’s wrestling as an emerging sport in 2020. Currently, 44 NCAA schools sponsor women’s wrestling, 10 at Division II. The NCAA requires 40 schools to sponsor a sport before providing a championship. Currently 28 states sanction women’s wrestling including the regional states of Montana, South Dakota, Missouri, Kansas, and Colorado. The National Wrestling Coaches Association states, “There are approximately 28,000 women competing in high schools across the country. A typical women’s wrestling roster grows to about 30 participants by the third year.”

States that sanction Women’s Wrestling see a 400% increase in participation within two years of affiliation with their High School Activities Association. As Nebraska considers sanctioning again this year, CSC increases the capacity to recruit from the growing number of participants.

## Gender Equity Compliance

Adding women’s wrestling will make Chadron State athletics compliant with Title IX rules on gender equity. Title IX requires one of three prongs to be satisfied, proportionality of participation, survey of campus interest in sports sponsorship, or adding a sport for an underrepresented sex. The addition of women’s wrestling complies with the third prong of the Office of Civil Rights compliance test. The college last added an underrepresented sport (softball) in 2006.

### Enrollment

The addition of women's wrestling would bring 30-35 new students to campus. While emerging programs begin with 10-15 athletes, most grow quickly due to unmet need. Colorado Mesa found that they did not use their scholarship allocation in the first year due to the number of interested athletes. Colorado Mesa is in its third year as a program and has 35 participants.

Chadron State recruits would be new students, as women's wrestling participants possess specific wrestling skills and therefore would not likely come from our current student base. Women's wrestling can also enhance our institution's diversity. More than 30% of All Americans in the National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championships were either Hispanic or African American.

### Annual Budget & One-Time Costs

The annual budget includes salaries for a head coach and coaching assistant, scholarships, and comparable operational funding to men's wrestling. As the program grows, it is anticipated that scholarships will need to increase to attain the scholarship level of men's wrestling and compete for top athletes as other Women's Wrestling program are added in the conference and the region. This annual budget was developed by drawing from similar expenditures at Colorado Mesa and the current Men's Wrestling program at CSC.

Several one-time expenditures are also expected to expand Wrestling practice facility to accommodate men and women. This would include removing the dividing wall between the current wrestling room and adjacent dance instruction area. Padding to cover the walls in the dance area would be needed. Upgrades will also be necessary for existing facilities and showers in the Nelson Physical Activity Center (NPCA). The Athletic department will need to purchase a competition wrestling mat with women's markings. Total estimated one-time costs are expected to be \$20,000.

### Timeline

Hiring a head coach is CSC's first priority with a goal of filling the position in late June to early July. Depending on the date of hire, recruiting would begin immediately for the 2021-22 academic year.

### Summary

Adding women's wrestling allows Chadron State to lead in the development of women's wrestling at the NCAA Division II level. It addresses gender equity in the department, contributes to diversity, and will provide 30-35 additional students to the institution on limited scholarships.

The System Office and Chadron State College recommend approval of the New Athletics Program at Chadron State College.

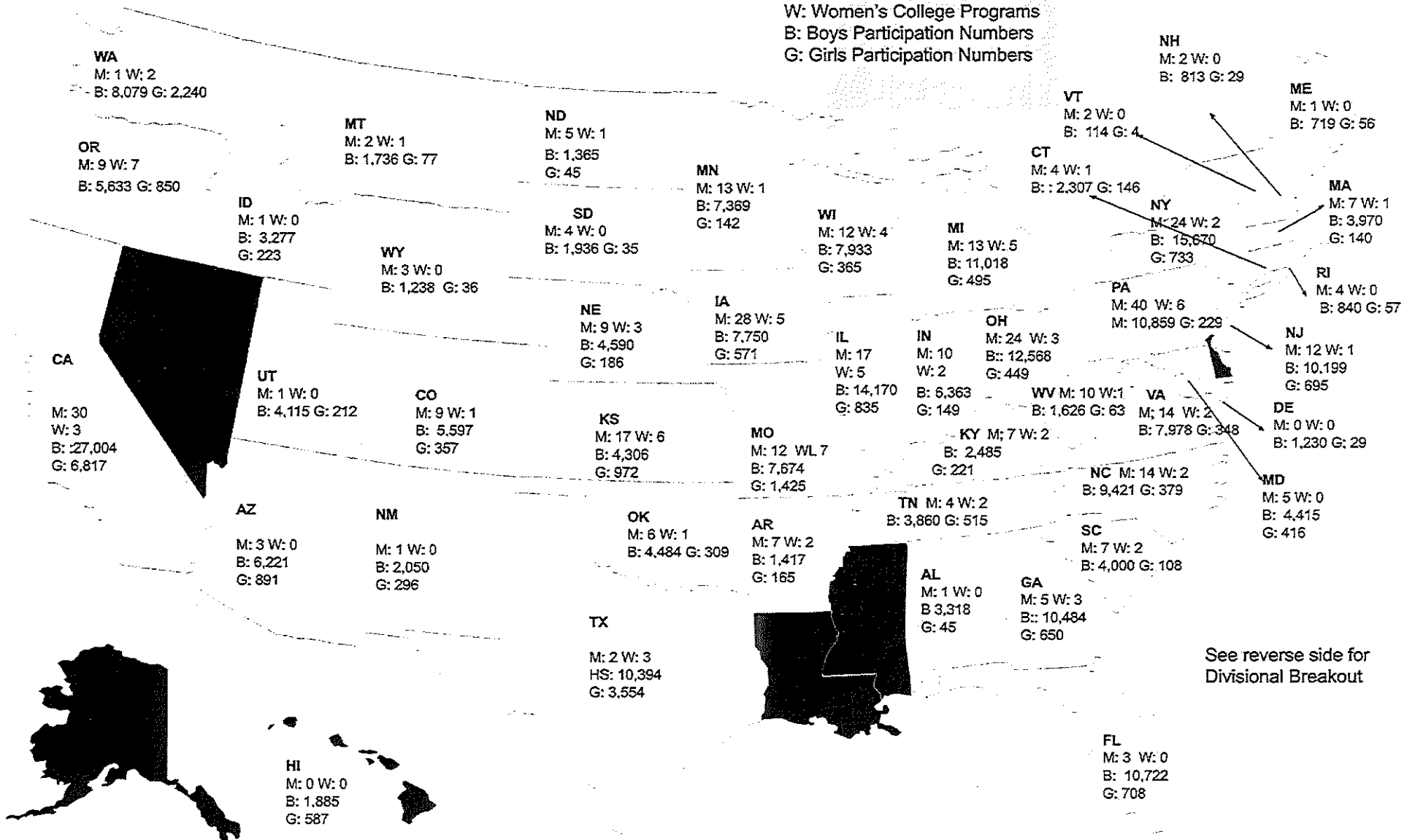
### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- CSC Womens Wrestling Demographics (PDF)

# College Wrestling Programs versus High School Participation

**KEY:**

M: Men's College Programs  
 W: Women's College Programs  
 B: Boys Participation Numbers  
 G: Girls Participation Numbers



See reverse side for Divisional Breakout

1. High School Participation Numbers are Based off the 2018-19 NFHS Participation Report or NWCA Weight Management Reporting 2. Red - States with no 4 year collegiate programs  
 3. DI - NCAA Division I, DII - NCAA Division II, DIII - NCAA Division III, NAIA - NAIA 4. There is also 1 Division I Program in Washington DC, 1 Division II Men's Program and 1 Division II Women's Program in British Columbia

State	Boys	DI	DII	DIII	NAIA	JC	Total	State	Girls	DI	DII	DIII	NAIA	JC	Total
AL	3318	0	0	1	0	0	1	AL	45	0	0	0	0	0	0
AK	1600	0	0	0	0	0	0	AK	341	0	0	0	0	0	0
AR	1417	1	1	1	3	1	7	AR	165	0	0	1	1	0	2
AZ	6221	1	0	0	2	0	3	AZ	891	0	0	0	0	0	0
BC	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	BC	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
CA	27004	5	1	0	4	20	30	CA	6817	0	0	0	3	0	3
CO	5597	2	5	0	0	2	9	CO	357	0	1	0	0	0	1
CT	2307	1	0	3	0	0	4	CT	146	1	0	0	0	0	1
DC	183	1	0	0	0	0	1	DC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DE	1230	0	0	0	0	0	0	DE	29	0	0	0	0	0	0
FL	10722	0	0	0	3	0	3	FL	708	0	0	0	0	0	0
GA	10484	0	1	0	4	0	5	GA	650	0	1	0	2	0	3
HI	1885	0	0	0	0	0	0	HI	587	0	0	0	0	0	0
IA	7750	3	1	9	9	6	28	IA	571	0	0	0	4	1	5
ID	3277	0	0	0	0	1	1	ID	223	0	0	0	0	0	0
IL	14170	4	1	7	2	3	17	IL	835	0	1	3	1	0	5
IN	6363	2	1	3	3	1	10	IN	149	0	0	1	1	0	2
KS	4306	0	2	0	7	8	17	KS	972	0	0	0	6	0	6
KY	2485	1	1	0	5	0	7	KY	221	0	0	0	2	0	2
LA	1922	0	0	0	0	0	0	LA	60	0	0	0	0	0	0
MA	3970	1	1	5	0	0	7	MA	140	0	0	0	0	1	1
MD	4415	2	0	2	0	1	5	MD	416	0	0	0	0	0	0
ME	719	0	0	1	0	0	1	ME	56	0	0	0	0	0	0
MI	11018	3	1	3	3	3	13	MI	495	0	2	2	1	0	5
MN	7369	1	4	3	0	5	13	MN	142	0	0	1	0	0	1
MO	7674	1	5	2	4	0	12	MO	1425	0	2	2	3	0	7
MT	1736	0	0	0	2	0	2	MT	77	0	0	0	1	0	1
NC	9421	7	4	1	2	0	14	NC	379	0	0	1	1	0	2
ND	1365	1	2	0	2	0	5	ND	45	0	0	0	1	0	1
NE	4590	1	2	1	5	0	9	NE	186	0	0	0	3	0	3
NH	813	0	0	2	0	0	2	NH	29	0	0	0	0	0	0
NJ	10199	3	0	4	0	5	12	NJ	695	0	0	1	0	0	1
NM	2050	0	1	0	0	0	1	NM	296	0	0	0	0	0	0
NY	15670	7	0	12	0	5	24	NY	733	0	0	1	0	1	2
OH	12568	4	5	13	2	0	24	OH	449	0	1	1	1	0	3
OK	4484	2	1	0	2	1	6	OK	309	0	0	0	1	0	1
OR	5633	1	0	1	4	3	9	OR	850	0	0	1	4	2	7
PA	10859	11	8	19	0	2	40	PA	229	0	2	3	0	1	6
RI	840	1	0	3	0	0	4	RI	57	0	0	0	0	0	0
SC	4000	2	4	0	1	0	7	SC	108	1	1	0	0	0	2
SD	1936	1	2	0	1	0	4	SD	35	0	0	0	0	0	0
TN	3860	1	2	0	1	0	4	TN	515	0	2	0	0	0	2
TX	10394	0	0	0	2	0	2	TX	3554	0	0	1	2	0	3
UT	4115	1	0	0	0	0	1	UT	212	0	0	0	0	0	0
VA	7978	4	0	7	1	2	14	VA	348	0	0	2	0	0	2
VT	114	0	0	2	0	0	2	VT	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	8079	0	0	0	0	1	1	WA	2240	0	0	0	0	2	2
WI	7933	1	1	10	0	0	12	WI	365	0	0	4	0	0	4
WV	1626	1	7	1	1	0	10	WV	63	0	1	0	0	0	1
WY	1238	1	0	0	0	2	3	WY	36	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	278907	79	65	116	75	52	407	Total	28255	2	15	25	38	8	88