



University of Fort Lauderdale

Educating 21st Century Leaders to Reach and Restore the World for Christ

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Making History: University of Fort Lauderdale Joins the NCCAA

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. - University of Fort Lauderdale (UFTL) Chancellor Dr. Henry B. Fernandez, Vice President of Athletics and Student Success Ernest T. Jones, Director of Athletics Fernando Valenzuela and National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Executive Director Dan Wood announced that UFTL has accepted a formal invitation to join the NCCAA beginning in July 2021.

The association's board of directors, by a unanimous vote, extended the invitation for membership to the University of Fort Lauderdale.

The NCCAA has nearly 90 members, many of which participate in NCAA Division I and II.

The new conference affiliation is the first home to UFTL athletic teams.

"This is a major accomplishment for our university—not only because it opens the door for our sports programs to now have a national presence, but it expands the recruitment opportunities for UFTL students with various sports interests. I especially want to thank Mr. Ernest T. Jones, Vice President of Athletics and Student Success at UFTL, and Mr. Fernando Valenzuela, the university's Athletic Director, for doing an outstanding job in helping us to achieve this important milestone," Fernandez said.

Established in 1968, the NCCAA is an association of Christ-centered collegiate institutions whose mission is to use athletic competition as an integral component of education, evangelism, and encouragement.

"I'd like to extend my gratitude to Chancellor Fernandez and others at UFTL who helped us secure this acceptance into the NCCAA, allowing our student-athletes to compete at the highest level," said Jones, who was named the school's vice president for athletics and student success in February. "UFTL is pleased to share a national stage with universities that also understand the traditional role athletics play in the fabric of college life. Like our coaches, I am committed to the success of our student-athletes individually and to our athletic program as a whole."

The University of Fort Lauderdale competes in 14 intercollegiate sports with plans to expand to 22 sports in the 2020-21 academic year. The school fields men's teams in basketball, football, baseball, soccer, tennis and indoor and outdoor track & field. Women's teams compete in basketball, flag football, cheerleading, soccer, softball, tennis, indoor and outdoor track & field and volleyball.

“We are very excited about the enthusiasm that has been very apparent in our immediate surrounding community and in the southern region of the NCCAA,” said Valenzuela. “The commitment by the administration at the University of Fort Lauderdale to the athletic department and the University was certainly the biggest factor in our achieving the unanimous acceptance by the NCCAA. This was a team effort.”

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