

Lindenwood University

Digital Commons@Lindenwood University

Archived Lindenwood Press Releases

Public Relations

2-23-2022

Lindenwood Announces NCAA Division I Reclassification Bid

Lindenwood University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.lindenwood.edu/press_releases



Part of the [Business and Corporate Communications Commons](#)

February 23, 2022

Today, Lindenwood University President Dr. Porter announced that the University will move forward with the formal process to reclassify from Division II to Division I athletics.

The decision comes after extensive research and approval from the Board of Trustees. Led by Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics, Brad Wachler, the process to reach this recommendation was thoroughly vetted from many aspects. Lindenwood engaged the services of the Collegiate Sports Associates who conducted an external study and an internal financial analysis demonstrated that this may be a viable option.



The Ohio Valley Conference has been identified as the desired home for the future of Lindenwood Athletics. In addition to applying to the NCAA to transition from Division II to Division I and to the OVC, Lindenwood is working to identify conferences for affiliate membership to welcome teams who are not slated in the OVC. Lindenwood does not have plans to reduce the total number of sponsored sports. Upon approval, the transition process will take four years to complete.

“Lindenwood is thrilled to join the Ohio Valley Conference as we apply to transition to NCAA Division I. This opportunity will elevate our entire university and provide championship-level experiences our student athletes deserve,” Lindenwood President Dr. John Porter said. “A move to NCAA Division I athletics and membership in the OVC enhances our Lindenwood University community in many ways and aligns with our strategic plan— it will drive enrollment, enhance university visibility, and generate revenue. We are eager

to begin competition at this next level and look forward to welcoming OVC member schools to our campus beginning this fall.”

Lindenwood anticipates starting to compete at the NCAA Division I level in the 2022-23 season and conclude membership in the GLVC at the end of the current academic year. Upon transitioning to Division I, Lindenwood will be able to compete for conference titles but will be ineligible to participate in NCAA championships until the four-year transition process is complete.

The Lindenwood Athletics Department has provided [supporting information](#) about the University’s exploration of the move to Division I.