

November 2, 2011

I am pleased to recommend David Pillen for the NCAA Internship Program. I have known David since 2008 when he was a football student-athlete at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where I serve as the Associate Athletic Director for Life Skills. I have been in this capacity for the past 24 years and have had the privilege of assisting several thousand student-athletes. In terms of leadership, total person development, career focus and passion for a career in athletics, few match what David has to offer. I am very confident that he would be an outstanding intern for the NCAA and he has my full support for this position.

I have a great deal of respect for David as from day one as a college student-athlete he always understood the “big picture” and has been committed to developing in all aspects of his life which will ultimately prepare him well for future transitions. It was during David’s time as a student-athlete for the Nebraska Football program that he developed his passion for service projects and leadership roles. David balanced the rigors of Division One football with participation in the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Campus Crusade, team hospital visits along with serving as a volunteer at the Lincoln Lighthouse and Nebraska Football Academy. Through these many experiences, David demonstrated leadership, initiative, self-confidence, compassion, time management and organizational skills. In 2009, David transferred to Abilene Christian University where he is a member of the football team. More impressively, David has taken his leadership and involvement to new heights currently serving as the President of both the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and Fellowship of Christian Athletes while volunteering as a school mentor and participating in the Study Abroad Program. David has also elevated his commitment and responsibilities to the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee as he serves on the Division II National SAAC, has attended NCAA National Conventions and participated in both the NCAA Career IN Sports Forum and the NCAA Sports & Entertainment Summit. Through these roles, David has had countless opportunities to research issues, speak to groups, educate, persuade and learn. He is a very intelligent, hardworking individual who is highly motivated. He is creative with the proven ability to multi-task. His intangible skills, direct experiences in athletics both on and off the field truly make him a strong candidate for the NCAA Internship program.

David Pillen is a genuine, caring, dedicated and passionate person who has committed his life to serving others along with gaining diverse experiences in intercollegiate athletics. I firmly believe that he would be an excellent candidate for the NCAA Internship Program and know that he would be excited to secure this career opportunity. Thank you for your review of these comments. Please feel free to contact me at 402-472-4616 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Keith Zimmer, Associate A.D. for Life Skills