2F Joyce Olushola, Arkansas State University & LaDessa Y. Mitchell, University of South Florida
“Sisterhood, Scholarship, Service: Redefining Sport Success through African-American Women’s Experiences"

African-American women are the roses that grow through the hardwood. Despite the physical, financial, and educational barriers they face due to the intersections of their race and gender, these women are still able to rise to the top of academic and athletic circles (Collins, 2000; Carter-Francique, 2014). Yet, the ability of these women to find success in these arenas is often negated due to lack of recognition or the attribution of their success to natural ability or luck. The trickle-down effect of these theories is that more is not being done to understand how programs, like sport, have and can be structured to assist African-American women in defining and achieving success. The purpose of this presentation is to explore the motivations for African-American women engaging in sport participation and administration and the means by which they define success. Implications from this research seek to redefine the ways success is quantified in sport and consequently give more value (i.e., resources and recognition) to the success African-American women achieve. The research also seeks to promote the value of practitioners in theorizing beneficial sport participation and provide implications for the implementation and marketing of sport programs for African-American females.

2F Nakia DeBlanc, California University Pennsylvania; Charles Crowley, California University Pennsylvania & Donya Andrew Little, Georgia State University Perimeter College
“The Mentoring Experience of Minority Athletes"

There are many researchers such as Carter and Hart (2010) and Harrison (2006), whose research generated discussion focusing on the importance of minority student athletes. According to Storch and Ohlson (2006), they express the importance of support services and mentoring of community college student athletes. The purpose of this research study is to assess minority female student-athletes’ involvement, access and helpfulness of college mentoring programs. The mentoring relationships are intended to help less experienced persons to be guided by a more established professional with greater experience, influence and achievement. They have the ability to be personal, reciprocal and can include emotional support, career development and role modeling. This presentation will describe formal and informal mentoring programs at three universities reviewing best practices of programming and evaluation, identifying benefits for both mentors and students and to compare the strengths and weaknesses of each. This research covers 20 minority student athletes from the National Junior College system, NCAA Division I and Division II. What this research will address is an understanding of best practices related to student mentor programming and evaluation. Then we will compare strengths and weaknesses of formal and informal mentor programs.

2F Akilah Carter-Francique, Prairie View A&M University
“Margin to Center: Theoretical Perspectives on African-American Women in Sport"

In the United States of America, Black (e.g., African American) women are said to experience a “double burden” based on race and gender marginalization (St. Jean & Feagin, 1998). In this paper, critical theories (e.g., Black feminist thought, womanism) will be presented to illuminate how the framing and (re)framing of African American women contributes to their marginalization in sport and society. Scholars have purported the utility of critical theories to: (a) unveil the intersections of racism, sexism, and classism (intersectionality) on African American women in sport and (b) unpack the effects of intersectionality (i.e., limited access, lack of representation, discrimination) on the experiences and pursuits of African American women participants, administrators, and coaches (Carter-Francique & Flowers, 2013; Carter-
Francique & Olushola, 2015; Scraton, 2002; Smith, 1992, 2000). Hence, this paper will explicate how and why critical theories rooted in Black feminism are beneficial to demonstrate the barriers, the contributions, and the value of African American women in sport.