

For Immediate Release

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USA Collegiate and SUU Online team up to provide private league football players education pathways to careers

[Cedar City, Utah.] Private football league organizer USA Collegiate is collaborating with Southern Utah University to provide educational pathways to careers for their players, many of whom have been negatively impacted by the wave of junior colleges terminating their football programs.

Through this agreement, players will be able to earn associate and bachelor's degrees through SUU's Speedway | Bachelor of General Studies program. Speedway is a versatile, modular online degree program that costs just \$75 per credit, making it one of the lowest-cost, accredited degrees in the nation.

"We created USA Collegiate in an impassioned effort to provide hundreds of underserved student athletes the opportunity to both play football *and* receive meaningful education through colleges and technical schools, with the additional support of professionals and mentors," said Dave Arslanian, USA Collegiate founder and hall-of-fame football coach.

"Our teams will not only provide fresh competition to Utah's junior college football scene, but also provide an outstanding student, workforce, and leadership development program for the players," Arslanian said.

What makes this joint effort particularly compelling is the robust support these student athletes will receive from both organizations: USA Collegiate providing college preparation and ongoing academic coaching, and SUU Online providing its hallmark student-centric teaching and student services, such as tutoring and counseling.

"We are so impressed with USA Collegiate's commitment to the preparation and success of their student athletes for college and for their future," SUU Online's Director of Partnerships Lynn Kvamme said. "SUU's Speedway program seems to be a perfect fit for this partnership. We are truly honored to be part of USA Collegiate's vision."

Speedway students earn their Bachelor of General Studies degree 100% online in as few as three years. Classes are only seven-weeks long and transfer credits are accepted. Financial barriers are removed thanks to federal financial aid, providing a path to an accredited education for students where, when, and how they need it.

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About SUU Online

In its 125 year history as Utah's first experiment in distance education, Southern Utah University's Online Department continues its pioneering legacy by offering to students across the globe affordable and flexible college degrees: 12 masters, 16 bachelors, and 2 associates. This includes one of the most affordable bachelor's degree in the nation, Speedway | Bachelor of General Studies. SUU Online's combination of affordability, flexibility, and vast student success programs provide an extraordinary education, anytime, anywhere. <u>Learn more about SUU's online programs</u>.

About USA Collegiate

USA Collegiate was founded by Hall of Fame football coaches Dave Arslanian and Larry Philpot when junior colleges started eliminating their athletic programs. Knowing what that opportunity meant to the lives of players, they set out to create an alternative for these displaced student athletes. USAC's alternative program pairs privately funded football leagues with academics via USAC's own prep program and strategic collaborations with

colleges and technical schools to develop athletes – and a future workforce – with job, leadership, and life skills learned in a classroom and on the field. USAC is based in St. George, Utah and is a licensed, degree-granting post-secondary school. It developed the plan, consulted with, and established the academic support for privately funded junior college football clubs in Arizona, and is now committed to establishing junior college football clubs in Utah. Learn more about USA Collegiate.

Related Images



Recommended caption: USA Collegiate's football players can earn associate and bachelor's degrees online through SUU's Speedway Program, one of the lowest-cost degrees in the nation.

Photo credit: Southern Utah University

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Recommended caption: SUU Vice President of Finance & Administration Marvin Dodge and USA Collegiate Founder Dave Arslanian sign a memorandum of understanding defining how the two organizations will work together to provide education opportunities to USAC's football players.

Photo credit: Southern Utah University

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Recommended caption: USA Collegiate and Southern Utah University signed a memorandum of understanding that defines how the two organizations will collaborate to provide online education opportunities to USAC's football players.

Front row (L-R): Marvin Dodge, Dave Arslanian

Back row (L-R): Jonathan Roberts, Lynn Kvamme, Steve Meredith, Mark Brady, Megan Pomeroy, Dewey Leavitt

Photo credit: Southern Utah University

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