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Attn: Committee on Women's Athletics The National Collegiate Athletic Association 700 W. Washington St. P.O. Box 6222 Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222

July 10, 2019

Dear Committee Members,

Please accept this letter on behalf of Davenport University in support of USA Cheer's effort to add STUNT as an NCAA emerging sport. What a great opportunity it provides for women to participate in intercollegiate athletics and derive the important benefits from sports. Davenport University has an amazing group of young ladies that compete in STUNT for our university. They are completely dedicated and work as hard if not harder than any athletic program we offer here at Davenport University.

Davenport University's STUNT Program operates with the same parameters as our NCAA DII programs in regards to practice times, facility usage and required time off. The program has access to our extensive strength and conditioning program.

Our STUNT student-athletes are great competitors in their sport of choice but more importantly awesome students in the classroom with a cumulative GPA of 3.2. STUNT like our NCAA DII programs are required to attend weekly study table sessions. Our STUNT student-athletes continue to raise the bar both on the mat and in the classroom.

College athletics has the unique ability to promote participation and sportsmanship to develop good citizens through intercollegiate athletics, which provide equitable opportunities, positive recognition and learning experiences to students while maximizing the achievement of educational goals.

We at Davenport University are certain the new sport of STUNT will help colleges and universities like ours provide a valuable sport offering that will significantly expand the number of female students and student-athletes on campus. We will continue to look at offering competitive opportunities for women and are hopeful STUNT receives the recognition it deserves as a championship sport in the NCAA in the near future.

We fully support the efforts of USA Cheer to secure NCAA emerging sport status for STUNT. We are very excited to move our STUNT program to our NCAA DII sport offerings. Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Rick Pappas, ED.

President

ED.D. Paul Lowder

**Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics** 

Ronda Varnesdeel Associate AD/SWA

