

Moraine Valley Community College
Recreation Therapy/ Recreation and Sport Management Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 26, 2019
9:00 a.m.

Present: Dr. Kiana Battle, Dr. Donna McCauley, Meghan Fenlon, Beth Nagel, Richie Palmer, Peggy Heenan, Danielle Bertucci, Billy Blake, Jesus Vargas, Debbie Trueblood, Dr. Sydney Sklar, Cathy Morava, Krystyna Tara, Rebecca Craig, Delaney Harty, Megan McCauley, Jackie Marshall, Christa McDonough, Dr. June Shingles, Eric Sloyan, Jack Leiser, Sylwia Mietus

Topic	Discussion
Introductions	Thank you for your attendance and continuous support. Thank you for playing the many roles needed to have a successful program. You are able to come and guest speak for the courses, you provide other contacts for guest speakers, you are the practicum supervisors so that students can earn the degree, you provide volunteer opportunities for students to gain experience and become more marketable when they graduate, you provide opportunities for students to be hired as part time and also eventually hire our students as full time employees. We cannot offer the opportunities and have a successful program without your continuous support. Thank you.
Enrollment	- Enrollment has increased. - Referenced handout- "The 50 Most Meaningful Jobs in America". It is great news to have recreational therapy be acknowledged and the handout is used in marketing to show potential students that this is a great career opportunity.
Curriculum Collaboration	- Collaborated with the Addiction Studies and Criminal Justice Programs - Students chose a topic and then presented their report to the students of the other program. - This allowed students to see how the career fields relate to one another. - Topic examples include: - How physical exercise can help law enforcement with their emotional wellness. - How recreation therapy will benefit veterans diagnosed with PTSD. - How to market a weight lifting program for teens diagnosed with alcoholism. - Worked with Sue Kempczynski, PEH and Fitness. Gave a recreation presentation during the Introduction to Physical Education course to allow students to learn more about the Recreation and Sports program.
Student Scholarships	Congratulations to the following scholarship winners. - Illinois Recreation Therapy Association Student Scholarship Winner- Danielle Bertucci - Illinois Parks and Recreation Association Student Scholarship Winner- Marie Piotrowski - South Suburban Professional Parks and Recreation Association Student Scholarship Winner- Marie Piotrowski
Academic Year Fall 2018 to Spring 2019 Highlights	- Recreation/Sport Programming- On site programming experience - Students are required to take Recreation and Sport Programming in the spring. - Students partner with an agency and meet three times with a professional. - Students were involved in 5k's Community Run, Easter events, Earth Day and more. - Students then create a presentation with the knowledge gained. - Program feedback is positive from both students and professionals. - Create partnerships - Provide feedback

- Opportunity to see their learning in action and gain experience
- Allows the student to feel certain about their career choice

2. Professional Issues Speakers

- Professional Issues course is taken in spring.
- Meant to build professionalism.
- Jack Leiser from Oak Lawn Park District organizes an HR panel to speak to students.
- Chris Finn from the Park District of LaGrange speaks to students about conflict management.
- Maddie Kelly Director of Oak Lawn Park District spoke on developing and sustaining Employee Wellness Programs

3. Recreation/Sport Facility Management-New Tours

- The facility and management course is taken in the fall.
 - Facility Management will be moved to spring 2021 and Recreation and Sports Programming to fall 2020. This will allow students to experience the different events that take place.
- Facility tours are based on the student's interests.
 - Toyota Park Soccer Arena
 - Village of Orland Park Recreation and Parks Department Sportsplex
 - Oak Lawn Park District Outdoor Sports Complex
 - Cook County Forest Preserve Outdoor Educational Programming –Little Red School House

4. Fall and Spring Practicum Experiences

- Krystyna Tara spoke about her experience at SEASPAR.
 - Positive experience in a professional environment.
 - Learned a wide range of responsibilities.
 - Must be able to handle yourself professionally because it affects participants.
 - Must provide meaningful daily activities.
 - Observed a yoga therapy and music therapy class.
 - Learned to build relationships with the employees.
- Richie Palmer spoke about his experience with the Thunderbolts Baseball Sports Complex.
 - Learned about filing for a visa for overseas players.
 - Was able to see what goes into forming partnerships and sponsorships.
 - Helped with maintenance.
 - Was able to see leadership changes.
 - Helped with marketing.
- Danielle Bertucci spoke about her experience at Christ.
 - Took hospital patients on outings. Example: the mall.
 - Was a very different experience compared to a park district setting.
 - Had to be prepared for patients with different types of ailments.
- Rebecca Craig spoke about her experience at Disney World.
 - She moved to Orlando for six months.
 - It was a unique and different experience.
 - Was difficult at first but she was able to adjust.
 - Disney has a very in depth training process.
 - Gained experience in customer service, hospitality, lifeguard training and more.

	○ She learned so much more than she expected. 5. Student Professional Involvement ● Students participated in the National Wheelchair Basketball Championship Tournament for NIT Women and Juniors. ○ Christa McDonough, an MVCC alumni, gave students a presentation about the event and their involvement. ○ Recreation & Sports Management and Recreational Therapy students participated. ● Mock Interview Day- with the assistance of the Job Resource Center ● The Recreation for Special Population course participated in numerous events. ○ Illinois Special Olympic Swimming meet at Stagg High School ○ Illinois Therapeutic Recreation Association ITRS Special Recreation Association Basketball Tournament at Eisenhower High School 6. Recreation Therapy Summit- Illinois Recreation Therapy Educators Summit ● Educators and over 100 recreation therapy students participated ● Held at Illinois State University on April 5th 2019 ● The purpose was to choose a discussion topic and then come up with a task that will be completed over the next year ● Sample topics: ○ Professional development ○ Professional trends and issues ○ Professional involvement and advocacy ○ Scholarships ▪ Dr. Sydney Sklar was the faculty mentor. ● Felt it was a good experience for students ● It was the largest gathering of recreational therapy students in the state ● Created great networking opportunities Feedback: ● Work in more time for students to be able to network ● Move it from Friday to Monday/Tuesday
Recruitment	● The website has been revised ○ The new website features a question box. It is effective and people are already submitting questions. ● Meeting with the MVCC advisors was held in February to go over the program information. ● Attending Career Fairs ○ Andrew High School ○ Stagg High School ○ Rich Central High School ○ Evergreen Park High School ○ Chicago Park District Employee Staff Development Days ○ Chicago Park District Annual College Symposium Resource Fair ○ Public Service Career Fair

	● Shared handout from the IPRA featuring testimonies by Debbie Trueblood, IPRA Executive Director; Manual Aguilar, MVCC alumni; Dr. Donna McCauley, MVCC faculty. ○ Testimonies from alumni and affiliates are the best form of recruitment.
Donna McCauley Professional Involvement	● Spoke for the South Suburban Professional Parks and Recreation Association's October Monthly Meeting ○ Topic: <i>Effective Techniques to Supervising Part-Time Staff</i> ○ Helps with recruitment ● Council on accreditation of Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions COAPRT ○ Visited Central Michigan University ○ 15 full time faculty in recreation ○ 30 week internship ○ Brought back ideas for curriculum and assessment ● Served on the 2019-2024 Moraine Valley Community College Strategic Planning Committee as Co-chair for the Social Trends. ● Served on the non-tenure team for Sue Kempczynski, PEH.
Discussion	● Moraine Valley will be hosting the Senior Olympics. ○ Students will be involved ○ Community members are already very excited to participate ○ Time and date to be determined ● Debbie Trueblood discussed the IPRA- Illinois Parks and Recreation Association ○ Professional Society-Serves students through retirees ○ Goal is to assist with career ○ Networking opportunities, education opportunities, programs, support in career ○ State Conference held in January in Chicago with up to 4,000 people ○ Working to make faculty membership free ○ Student membership is free ○ IIPRA.ORG
Adjourned	

Respectfully submitted,

Sylwia Mietus