

Please complete the following sections, highlighting key activities, practices and statistics relevant to your unit since July of 2015, projecting through June of this year. Although the space provided will expand to accommodate text provided, please note that your responses may be edited for length in the final report. You are encouraged to bold any text describing accomplishments or efforts your unit would especially like to have highlighted in the final report.

Please submit your responses by no later than June 6, 2017. If you have questions, please contact Elnora Mitchell, emitch@ufl.edu, 392-2477.

I. Equal Opportunity Compliance

Describe internal and external polices that are followed to encourage non-discrimination practices. What were the results of any assessment, self-assessment, and monitoring of your program services?

The Department of Recreational Sports' mission is to offer experiences that enrich the lives of University of Florida students through excellence in facilities, fitness, sport, adventure and play. RecSports strives to be inclusive and provide a variety of accommodations for equal access to our programs and facilities.

Recreational Sports (RecSports) is allocated \$6 million to ensure access for all fee-paying students on a variety of recreational programming and services. RecSports has engaged the Disability Resource Center, the Collegiate Veterans Center and Student Government in a partnership to develop and market more inclusive recreational activities. Information about these programs and services are available on the RecSports website:

<http://recsports.ufl.edu/about/forms-and-requests/inclusive-recreation>.

II. Equity Accountabilities

List or describe specific programs, visits, outreach activities and statements used to support diversity.

RecSports is partnering with the Disability Resource Center to provide **facility orientations** for individuals with disabilities. Students are shown various machines and equipment that are able to accommodate disabilities they may have and how to operate them.

Goal ball, sitting volleyball and **wheelchair basketball** are three special events offered to increase awareness about inclusive/adaptive sport opportunities for students with disabilities. These events gave more than 150 students the opportunity

to play a sport without their sight or use of their lower body. Following the events, students commented they had a new appreciation for the difficulties a similar disability would create.

RecSports has been partnering with **Special Olympics** over the past 4 years to provide programming in a format referred to as Unified Sports. Unified Sports is an inclusive sports program that unites Special Olympics athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) as teammates for training and competition; dramatically increasing inclusion in the community and using sports to help break down barriers that have historically kept people apart. UF students are involved as partners sharing the playing field. UF students and staff also serve as game officials, site supervisors and league coordinators.

Our partnership has consisted of 3 different types of programming initiatives:

- Extramural Tournaments – Swamp Bowl, our regional flag football tournament, has hosted a Special Olympics division for 4 years; while our regional basketball tournament, Swamp Shootout, will host 10 Special Olympics teams this year, the first time we have done so.
- Rivalry Series – Our inaugural rivalry series flag football game vs. FSU took place November 2015 in Gainesville as part of the UF vs. FSU football rivalry. The game alternates locations each year in line with the “other” football game.
- Intramural Sports Leagues – In Fall 2016 RecSports created a 4 team Special Olympic division as part of our intramural flag football offerings. That concept has continued through the Spring 2017 semester with a 4 team basketball division. Over 150 UF students and athletes were impacted.

All of the above mentioned programs consist of a blend of Special Olympic athletes playing as teammates with UF students. Coaches, game officials and supervisors are all UF students as well. The positive interaction and willingness to create a meaningful experience has made for an impactful and collegial relationship between two distinct groups all working towards a common goal.

The **Mentor Monday Program** is designed to bring together mentoring programs across campus as a way to unite the mentor and mentee by participation in low-activity, high enjoyment games. These games challenge communication and enhance mentee/mentor relationships. Mentor/Mentee pairs can be student/student, faculty/student or staff/student.

RecSports staff members have the opportunity to get involved and give back to the UF campus and the Gainesville community by participating in **service projects** organized within the Department of Recreational Sports by the Staff Development & Training Program. We believe in Time, Talent and Treasure. A few examples of how can we give of our time and talents are:

- UF Project Makeover

- Habitat for Humanity
- Ronald McDonald House
- Humane Society
- Girl's Place
- Gator Plunge
- Drives

RecSports conducts an annual **summer food drive**; this past year we changed the theme to 'With Justice and Food for All'. We challenge each program area (to be a "true" hero) to bring in non-perishable, unopened items – especially proteins and grains. The Justice League Food Drive runs through Summer C. All donations benefit the UF community – students, faculty, and staff – through the UF Field and Fork Pantry. Over the past three years, RecSports has donated over 3800 pounds of food for the pantry.

The **VETSPACE Veteran Gratitude Drive** benefits homeless or at risk veterans along with their families. RecSports collects items such as linens and toiletries. RecSports places bins around our facilities and we ask our staff to encourage friends, roommates, patrons, and guests to donate as well

III. Diversity in Services

Provide data, population statistics, cost, awards, participants and staffing that reflects diversity in services.

Our annual **Midnight Fun Run (MFR)** is a 5k event held the last day of classes at 11:59p.m. We have 2,000-3,000 student participate in the event with all ability levels. Funds raised during MFR benefit participants in the **CHANGES** program. CHANGES is a collaborative program through Student Health Care Center, Counseling and Wellness Center, GatorWell and RecSports that provides free personal training along with other services to students who are at risk for chronic disease based on lifestyle.

UF RecSports was an early adopter in the world of Collegiate Recreation in the creation a **gender identity statement**. All individuals who meet the eligibility requirements for participation in the intramural sports program are eligible and encouraged to participate. Individuals may participate in accordance with their personal gender identity and expression.

RecSports is working with Planning, Design & Construction as well as DRMP, Inc. to develop a **feasibility study** addressing ADA and erosion needs at Lake Wauburg North and South Shore.

IV. New Initiatives

What were your plans for 2016-2017 to support equity and increased diversity?

RecSports and the Counseling & Wellness Center (CWC) have partnered in offering **mindfulness trips** to UF students. CWC counselors accompany trip leaders and registered students into a “nature” environment. Usually, the location involves seclusion from other guests as well as the feeling of being surrounded by nature. In this environment, students are better able to quiet their minds and connect with themselves, with nature, and with others in the group. The trips include guided meditation and other mindfulness techniques that the students can apply to their daily lives. Mindfulness techniques help the students manage stress and anxiety. To date 10 trips have been offered accommodating approximately 90 students.

This year RecSports has begun offering **bi-lingual Group Fitness classes**. Classes are offered in French, Spanish and American Sign-Language. Understanding directions for physical activity in your non-native language can be challenging, which is why RecSports provides a list of instructors who are able to adapt their cues in other languages, upon request.

Women’s Only Workouts (WOW) hosted in the Southwest Recreation Center are meant to serve women, who for religious, cultural or personal beliefs, are not able to be active in front of male counterparts. This class provides a “safe place” with controlled access and covered windows for women to move, socialize and remove their hijab.

Recreational Sports is developing a **fifth value** within our Mission, Vision, and Values to incorporate the ideals of Diversity and Inclusion. This new value will be implemented in the Fall of 2017 and will state the following “Embrace Diversity through Inclusion”. Additionally, we have enhanced our mission statement to encompass a greater reach with specifically stating the “UF Community”.

V. Accolades

What events afforded you the best results in equity and diversity in this reporting year?

RecSports is proud of all the accomplishments noted above.