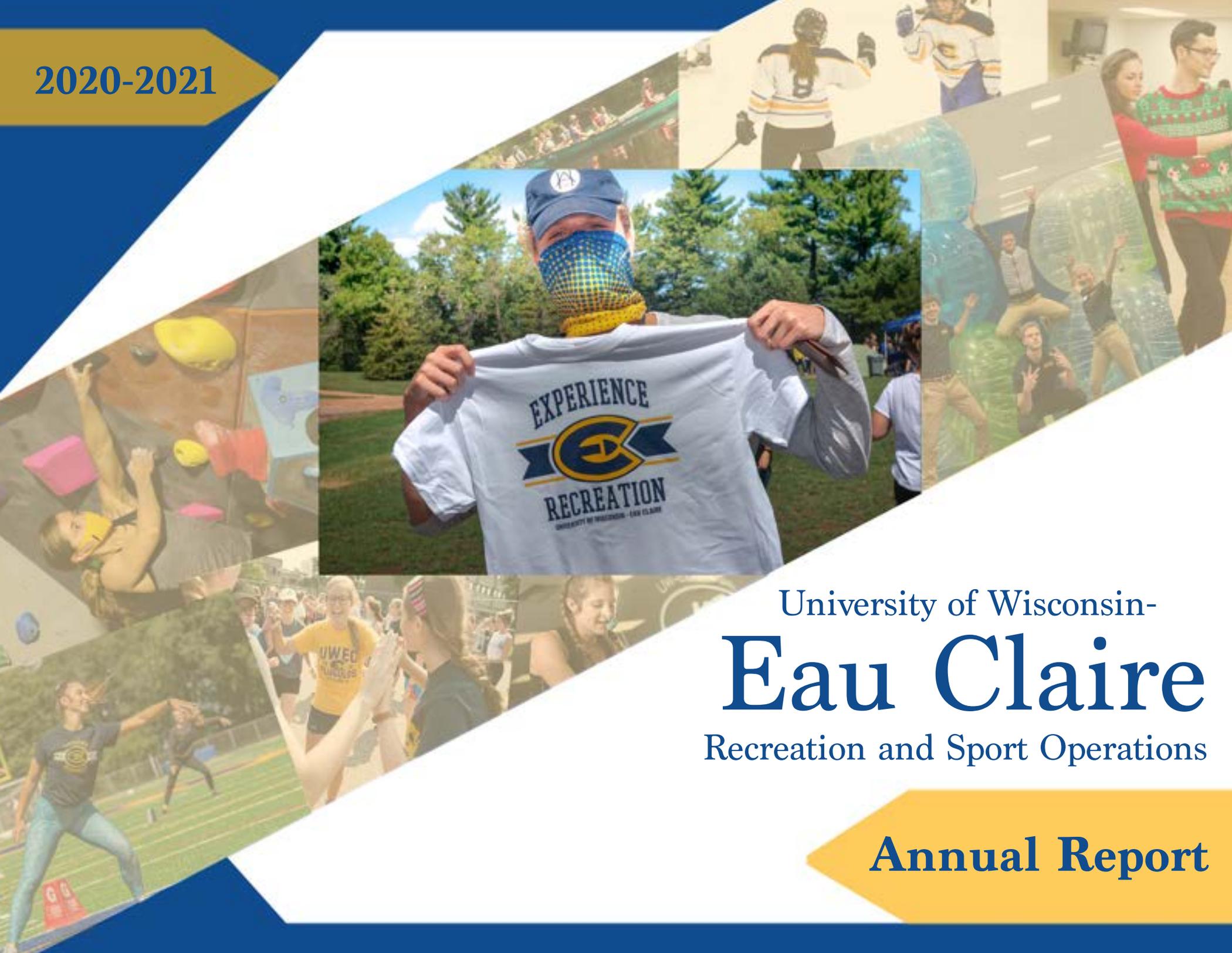


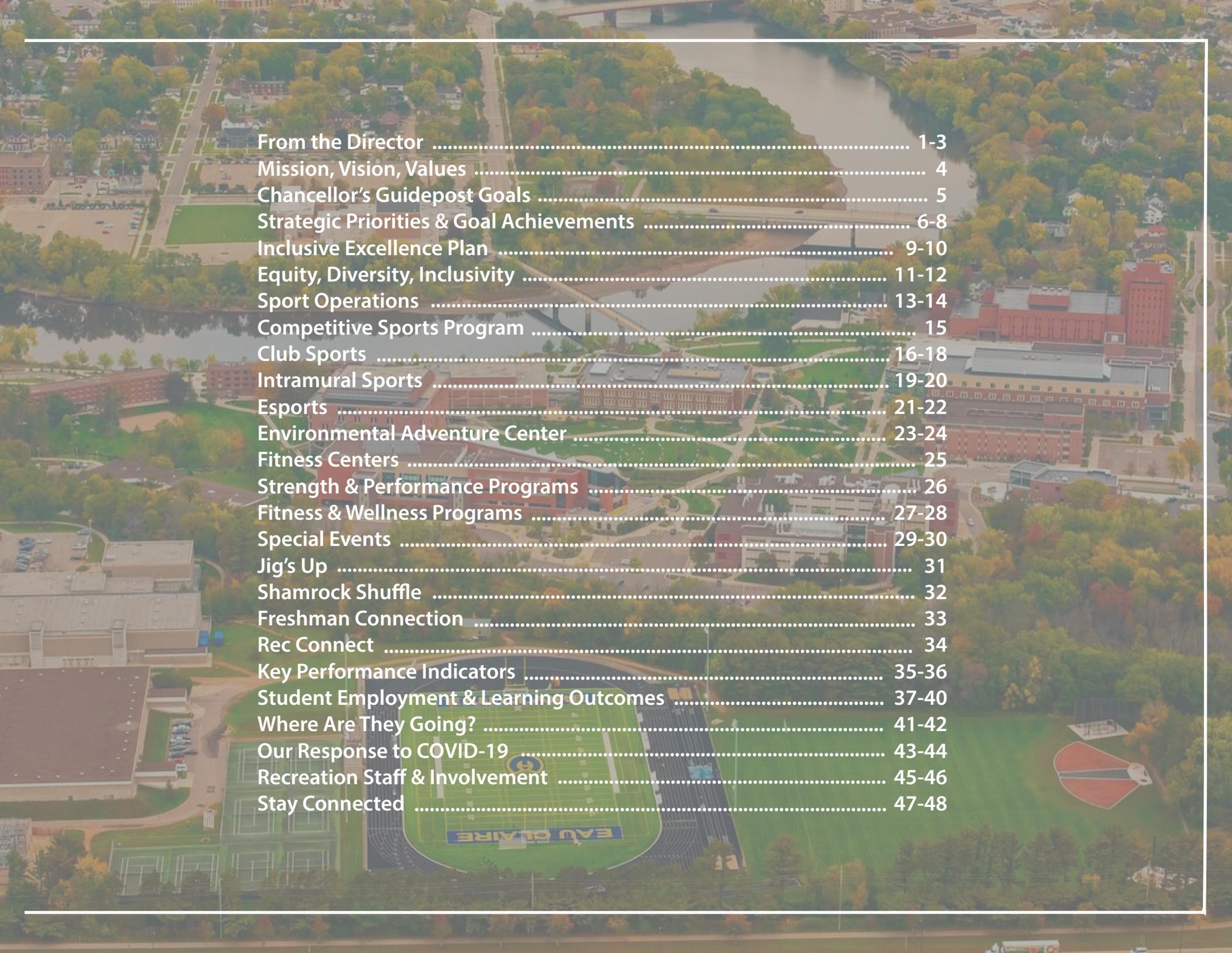
2020-2021



University of Wisconsin-
Eau Claire
Recreation and Sport Operations

Annual Report

Table of Contents



From the Director	1-3
Mission, Vision, Values	4
Chancellor's Guidepost Goals	5
Strategic Priorities & Goal Achievements	6-8
Inclusive Excellence Plan	9-10
Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity	11-12
Sport Operations	13-14
Competitive Sports Program	15
Club Sports	16-18
Intramural Sports	19-20
Esports	21-22
Environmental Adventure Center	23-24
Fitness Centers	25
Strength & Performance Programs	26
Fitness & Wellness Programs	27-28
Special Events	29-30
Jig's Up	31
Shamrock Shuffle	32
Freshman Connection	33
Rec Connect	34
Key Performance Indicators	35-36
Student Employment & Learning Outcomes	37-40
Where Are They Going?	41-42
Our Response to COVID-19	43-44
Recreation Staff & Involvement	45-46
Stay Connected	47-48

From The Director

Wow! After 15 years in the Recreation and Sport Operations department, I can honestly say that 2020-2021 will go down as one of the most interesting and challenging years I've ever experienced. Even though our campus faced a pandemic for the past 15 months, our department found a way to thrive through it all. We found ways to be flexible, innovative and creative. In a time of unknown, I am proud of our department and the difference we make every day in the lives of our students.

The Recreation and Sport Operations department became a leader for the COVID response. Our department took the lead on the following initiatives:

- *At the beginning of the fall semester, we developed and implemented the COVID testing location for on-campus students with BINAX NOW testing in McPhee 210C.*
- *Staff members ran all antigen testing reservations through the newly developed Blugold IMs app and IMLeagues – our intramural sports management software (unheard of across the country).*
- *During the fall semester we developed and implemented the COVID testing location for off-campus students, faculty, staff and community antigen testing in the Davies Center Ballroom.*
- *With the need of the Davies Center Ballroom for classes in the spring, we moved the COVID testing location for off-campus students, faculty, staff and community antigen testing to Zorn Arena.*
- *Due to the transition of COVID testing to Zorn Arena, we successfully transitioned Men's and Women's Basketball practices and competitions from Zorn Arena to McPhee 210B. Multiple facility alterations occurred to comply with NCAA guidelines.*
- *In the spring, we transitioned Zorn Arena into the FEMA vaccination site.*
- *With the transition of Zorn Arena to a FEMA vaccination site, we once again transitioned the COVID testing location for off-campus students, faculty, staff and community antigen testing to McPhee 210A.*



Andy Jepsen

Our department was at the forefront of all decisions and ultimately the successful transition of all these COVID related initiatives. I am so proud of the effort our entire staff put into make this difficult time a successful opportunity for our students, faculty, staff and community to be tested and vaccinated.

As I reflect, I think about ways we have grown and evolved our programs to meet the needs of our students:

- *Our fitness centers staff overhauled the fitness facilities and created spaces that allowed our students, faculty and staff the ability to utilize facilities in a safe way. Our staff implemented a reservation system to ensure we followed CDC and county/city guidelines that continually changed over the course of the year.*
- *Intramural Sports developed and implemented many new and safe opportunities for our students to engage with one another. The Club Sports program allowed all clubs to practice and, in some instances, compete near the end of the semester. Not only did we engage students, but we also grew our Club Sport program from 29 clubs to 31 with the addition of "Tennis" and "Disc Golf."*
- *The Strength and Conditioning program, brand new in 2018-19, grew once again with the hiring of Connor Olson as Assistant Strength and Performance Coach and the addition of nine student apprentices. The apprenticeship program has proven to be a tremendous partnership with the Kinesiology department and a huge win for students. Our staff efficiently incorporated 3 additional varsity athletic teams.*
- *Our group exercise and wellness program once again proved to be an exceptional opportunity for students to engage in stress relief opportunities. Initially, many of these offerings began as virtual offerings that ultimately evolved to in-person opportunities for our campus.*
- *The Environmental Adventure Center implemented a safe and successful adventure day trip program. The bouldering and climbing wall opened for our students, albeit with reduced numbers, it served as a positive outlet for our campus.*
- *We once again we provided professional development training for all our student employees in the areas of resilience, and in equity, diversity and inclusiveness.*

We place equal importance on our facilities, and a lot of time and thoughtful planning have gone into the development of a long-term plan for sport facilities on campus and with community partners. Our department has been working on the Recreation/Athletics Master Plan for the past few years and we're on phase 3 of 4. However, COVID-19 has postponed several projects. We look forward to continuing and ultimately completing this project with startup scheduled in the Summer of 2021. At the same time, we continue to push hard in 2020-21 to maintain, upgrade, and expand our current facility space to support our programs and students.

Here are a few projects from the past year:

- *McPhee/Olson, the Crest Fitness Center and the Hilltop Recreation Center were redesigned to ensure CDC/Eau Claire County/City guidelines were followed. Each facility was redeveloped as guidelines changed multiple times throughout the year. The MSPC was upgraded with new flooring and equipment that maximized the functionality of the space for strength and conditioning of athletes and all students.*
- *Simpson Field received new turf in spring 2020, in the first phase of a significant project that is moving forward with lighting, bleachers and other upgrades to better serve our Varsity and Club Sport athletes and Intramural Sports. We also added a scoreboard, shot clocks and additional equipment to adequately host competitions.*
- *Many other upgrades and continual cleaning and maintenance of the sport facilities in McPhee/Olson, Hilltop, Crest, and our outdoor fields took place throughout the year.*

Every year presents its own set of unique challenges. 2020-21 was no different, and our department adapted and responded to changes in leadership, priorities, and plans.

Our department helped our campus successfully pass a spring referendum for the Sonnentag Centre. This project will be a huge asset for our Recreation department and our campus as a whole.

Yes, 2020-2021 was a year to remember. We helped lead our campus through a pandemic, we celebrated successes, the growth of programs, we welcomed new staff, and we said goodbye to one special person, Jan Thorson, our Office manager who retired. Through it all, we came together as a staff, stronger than ever.

Above all, students were and will always be at the forefront of what we do. They are involved in decisionmaking and they lead in guiding our department in responding to change – they are what motivates us – they are our lifeblood. I welcome you to dive into the specifics of all we do in the pages ahead and invite you to get involved in all we have to offer. Come as you are and EXPERIENCE RECREATION!

Andy Jepsen
**Director of
Recreation and
Sport Operations**

Mission, Vision, Values

We provide comprehensive student-centered recreational experiences that support wellness and enhance academic learning.

Student enrichment,
Wellness,
Collaboration,
Stewardship, Sustainability,
Leadership,
Inclusiveness

If a disability related accommodation is needed to participate in any of our programs, please contact the Recreation Office at (715) 836-3377.

Our Mission

Our Vision

Our Values

**Equity,
Diversity, and
Inclusivity**

**Individuals
with
Disabilities**

Recreation and Sport Operations is a leader in the advancement of recreation and sport; we educate, inspire, engage, and equip students to be active, healthy and well in a global society.

We respect and appreciate all people. We value individual differences that make us unique and the similarities that bring us together. Come as you are and **EXPERIENCE RECREATION!**

Chancellor's Guidepost Goals

100%

of students participating in at least one high-impact learning experience

90%

of first-year students retained to their second year

50%

of students graduating within four years

20%

enrollment of students of color, and elimination of the opportunity gap

92%

of Recreation Student employees feel that working for Recreation has been a High Impact Experience. *This meaning their employment provided time devoted to purposeful tasks, helped them build substantive relationships, provided rich and frequent feedback, gave opportunities to apply and test what they learned, and time to reflect on the person they are becoming.*

5 Students successfully completed the Strength and Conditioning Coach exams.

3 Students became trained and/or certified in Zumba/Fusion classes.

84.4%

of 2019 new freshman recreation student **participants**, retained to fall 2020; university average is 81.9%

59.6%

of Recreation student **employees** graduate within four years.

48%

of Recreation student **participants** graduate within four years, university average is 43.1%

9%

of Recreation student **employees** identify as students of color.

11%

of Recreation student **participants** identify as students of color, university average is 11%

Strategic Priorities & Goal Achievements

Priority: Professional Development

- Encourage and support professional staff attendance at relevant conferences and/or trainings that benefit both the individual and the department.
- Support student development by providing regular performance evaluations, guidance in goal setting, leadership opportunities, and scholarships for conferences and trainings.

Accomplishments:

- Professional staff attended multiple online trainings and virtual conferences: WIRSA Fall Conference, NIRSA Annual Conference, Growth Mindset for Leaders, Wisconsin Rivers Officials Association Virtual Basketball Camp 2020 - WIAA Approved Clinic, and more.
- Shari Breed completed the Excellence in Supervision training.
- Student employees received annual performance evaluations, set SMART goals, and were financially supported in professional development.

Priority: Student Engagement / Connection

- Encourage student involvement in the Student Recreational Advisory Committee.
- Promote student involvement in department-wide programming and training opportunities.
- Create and develop recreational programming that is inclusive of all (first year, transfer, multicultural, etc.).

Accomplishments:

- 19 students from various program areas make up the Recreation Advisory Committee and provide leadership in decision making.
- Mandatory student trainings this year included the campus Tier 1 EDI Course and a 15-week Resilience training with five modules to complete.
- All Recreation programs and services are focused on inclusion; intentional programming includes Freshman Connection, RecConnect, and co-sponsorship of CIE, OMA, and GSRC programs.

Priority: Equity, Diversity, & Inclusiveness

- Ensure that the Recreation EDI statement is prominent in all marketing materials and evident in our personal conduct and treatment of all people.
- Work to strengthen Recreation connections and collaborations with the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Center for International Education, Gender & Sexuality Resource Center and the Office for Students.
- Prioritize and promote EDI in hiring and training for professional and student staff.

Accomplishments:

- Diversity within our student staff is in line with campus and our values are displayed prominently in all our buildings and on marketing materials.
- EDI is at the center of all we do in the Recreation department and is at the forefront of all decision making, hiring, marketing, evaluations, and planning. Intentional programming often involves collaborations with other departments on campus.
- Professional staff are active in the EDI trainings with two completing Tier 3 this year. All Recreation student employees were encouraged and supported in completing the Tier 1 EDI course that was introduced in the fall and required of only first year students.

Priority: Facilities Management / Collaboration

- Work with Facilities Management on a maintenance and custodial plan that optimizes cleanliness and safety in our facilities.
- Continue development of a comprehensive long-term Master Plan for Recreation/Athletic facilities.
- Cultivate solid, mutually beneficial relationships with Housing and Residence Life, University Centers, Kinesiology, Athletics, and the Community for effective collaboration on shared-use facilities.

Accomplishments:

- Ongoing, transparent communication and collaboration ensured clean, safe, inclusive facilities with plans for continuous development and improvement to best serve our users. Close collaboration with Facilities has ensured all facilities are safe and clean, with quick response to issues as they arise.
- Work continues on a comprehensive Recreation/Athletics Facility Master Plan to ensure long-term planning. The Plan was on Phase 3 of 4 and is now moving forward after a pause due to COVID.
- Partnerships continue to be strong as ever; meetings take place with clear and open communication.

Priority: Fiscal Responsibility

- Manage department funds with integrity and wisdom, planning for and prioritizing immediate and long-term needs, and avoiding unnecessary or frivolous expenditures.
- Provide complete budget transparency to the Administration, Student Senate Finance Commission, and all students.
- Involve students in the budget development process and in the presentation of the budget to the Student Finance Commission.

Accomplishments:

- Limited capital spending to less than \$20,000.
- Eliminated all travel spending for FY21 due to COVID: special events, EAC spring break trips, and staff travel for conferences.
- Office Manager - Jan Thorson retired in August, position will not be filled in FY21 or FY22.
- Reduced unnecessary expenses for services/supplies by 17%.
- Intermittent staff furloughs saved approximately \$60,000.



Inclusive Excellence Plan + Achievements

Mentoring

Support and encourage participation in on-campus opportunities for mentoring.



Employment

Promote employment opportunities in a manner that will attract diverse applicants.

Training + Professional Development

Host diversity training + professional development throughout the year for student employees and professional staff.



Facility Improvements

Ensure facility improvements and new developments are inclusive and welcoming.



Mentoring

Professional staff served as Blugold Buddies to incoming first year students throughout the year.

Tyler Leonhard, Neil Ostlund, & Zac Ruch served as Blugold Beginnings Mentors.

Employment

9% students of color work for Recreation, the campus average is 11%.

Supervisors intentionally promote all open positions through OMA.

Training + Professional Development

Mandatory training for all Recreation students included the Tier 1 EDI Course and a 15-week Resilience training with five modules.

Implemented Athlete Ally Training for Club Sport Officers, 12 completed. *(Course that teaches athletic leaders how to establish LGBTQ inclusion as a core value to their leadership).*

Facility Improvements

All facilities redesigned to ensure CDC and Eau Claire/City guidelines were followed with member safety as a top priority.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity

As a staff and a department, we commit to and are intentional about inclusive programs, facilities, and employment. Our EDI statement is prominently displayed and guides us in all we do. We regularly contribute to and support inclusive programs and events.

103

student employees completed the EDI Tier 1 Training

EDI
TIER 2

Shari Breed, Garrett Larson, Neil Ostlund, Sheryl Poirier, and Brittany Wold completed Tier 2. Garrett has begun his Tier 3 project: Inclusive Intramurals.

EDI
TIER 3

Brittany Wold and Shari Breed completed their Tier 3 Project, "Student Recreation Employee Tier One and Tier Two Support"; their project offered the "freshman only" required EDI Tier 1 Training to all sophomore, junior, and senior Recreation student employees.

EDI Programs Attended by Staff

The Gender Gap
The Hate you Give- Reading Group, Film and Discussion
The Student Experience: Latinx
Trans 101
Understanding, Motivating and Engaging iGen Students
Virtual 4th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
What do you know about your neighbors:
Recognizing the Native Land and People in your Community
What the Hmong: An introduction of the American Hmong Experience
The Gender Gap
Who We Are: The stories of marginalized students in higher education
Wind River movie viewing and discussion
Blugold Dialogue: Fat is a Social Justice Issue, too
Campus Connect: Suicide Awareness and Intervention
Filming Series: American Heart
Filming Series: Ovarian Psychos
Filming Series: The Mask You Live In
Filming Series: Unslut
OMA Graduation Reception
Power of Perception Soul Food Dinner and Program
Queer Intersectionality Short Film
Racing Towards Justice: Conversation with Roxane Gay
Red Dress Display
The American Hmong Experience



Sport Operations

McPhee User Count Totals:

Wrestling Room: **2,889**
McPhee 210 Gyms: **13,375**
Activity Room 101: **1,032**

105 Dance Studio: **2,451**
Swimming Pool: **3,884**
Olson Gym: **12,369**

Racquetball Courts: **505**
Room 162: **1,459**
Indoor Track: **7,875**

Equipment Check out Totals: **167**
Equipment checkout was not available until March 2021 and students were encouraged to bring their own equipment



McPhee Physical Education Center

Home to Athletics, Kinesiology and Recreation; featuring three regulation sized hardwood courts, a 6-lane, 25-yard swimming pool, a 30-foot climbing wall, wrestling room, two multi-use rooms for special interest groups and a fitness centers. The Ade Olson Addition features three additional multi-use courts used for indoor athletic practices, class instruction and various Intramural and Club Sports. The addition also includes a 6-lane 200-meter track, 4 racquetball courts, an athletic training room, a lecture hall and several administrative offices for Athletics and Kinesiology.

- 8 Students received their lifeguard recertification
- Worked with the Athletic Department on the following projects:
 - Repainting the competition floor, adding temporary shot clocks, and LED lights on the backboards
 - New storage cages in to accommodate the three new sports that were added in 2020
 - New locker room space for the newly added athletic teams and adding new lockers in the general locker room area (In progress)
 - Added temporary bleachers to Simpson Field to accommodate athletic events
- Worked with KINS Department to install new security cameras in their academic labs (In Progress)
- Worked with Facilities Management on training/ordering a new robotic pool cleaner
- Worked with CVTC to develop a parking plan for Antigen Testing in McPhee

Outdoor Facilities (*Simpson, Bollinger, Courts*)

- Just south of the university's upper campus is the 40-acre Bollinger Field Complex consisting of 7 fields: four softball fields, three soccer fields and a rugby field. It is utilized by the university and the community.
 - Lights were installed on Simpson Field

Hilltop Recreation Center

- Hilltop Center houses the Recreation Office, Environmental Adventure Center, Bouldering Wall, Billiards Center, Esports Lab, and Archery Range.

Crest Wellness Center

- Crest Fitness Center features a contemporary atmosphere, scenic view overlooking campus, large free weight and cardio rooms, locker and shower facilities and a massage room. Hardware includes Matrix selectorized equipment, extensive free weights and benches, cable machines, treadmills, ellipticals, stationary bikes, stepmill, row machine and a multi-use rig unit.

Competitive Sports Program



Club Sports

Esports

Intramural Sports

The Competitive Sports programs encompasses Club Sports, Esports, and Intramural Sports. Competitive Sport Coordinator Garrett Larson took on the challenge of offering new opportunities for students to be active, physically spaced, and compete. His creativity and commitment kept the programs growing with increased student participation and employment opportunities.

A Club Sport is a recognized student organization that has been formed by individuals motivated by a common interest and desire to participate in their favorite activity. Club Sports are designed to provide the UWEC student community the opportunity to practice, participate, and perform on and off campus in 31 competitive and recreational sports. Clubs Sports are student initiated and run with an emphasis placed on student leadership and involvement.

The Club Sports Program empowers students to engage in leadership pursuits and focuses on student development, promoting social fellowship, and enhancing skills. Through guidance, leadership, and mentoring our staff aims to create opportunities for students to succeed both during their time at UWEC and within their professional lives.

Club Sports 2020 - 2021

Baseball	Men's Ultimate Frisbee
Blugold Nordic	Men's Volleyball
Bowling	Mixed Martial Arts
Cheer & Stunt Team	Powerlifting
Dance Team	Table Tennis
Disc Golf	Tennis
Eau Claire Dodgeball	Triathlon
Eau Climbers	Two to Tango
Equestrian	Waterski and Wakeboard
Esports	Women's Hockey
Figure Skating	Women's Lacrosse
Hwa Rang Do/Tae Soo Do	Women's Rugby
Men's Hockey	Women's Soccer
Men's Lacrosse	Women's Ultimate Frisbee
Men's Rugby	Women's Volleyball
Men's Soccer	



Club Growth + Development

- Implemented safety officer positions for all clubs
- Implemented coach volunteer agreement and onboarding process
- Returned to in-person budget presentations
- Conducted eight virtual club information sessions
- Developed promotional flyers for all 31 clubs
- 30 Clubs successfully completed return-to-play protocols at the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester to return to practices safely and whilst maintaining six-feet of physical distancing and tracking attendance
- Clubs returned to full practices in the Spring of 2021 through the continued use of masks, tracking of attendance, symptoms, and contact, and mandatory antigen testing on a weekly and biweekly basis
- Under several rigorous protocols, hosted five (5) total scrimmages with other UW institutions near the end of the year
 - *Club Baseball: 3 scrimmages (vs. UWSP and UW-Whitewater)*
 - *Men's Ultimate Frisbee (vs. UW-Whitewater)*
 - *Women's Rugby (vs. UWSP)*



Collaborated with the Student Athletic Training Association to program seven risk management workshops for safety officers.

General Risk Management
Developing an EAP
How to Pack a First Aid Kit
Basic First Aid
Concussion Red Flags
Sudden Cardiac Arrest
Acclimatization to Sport

Collaborated with the AIL Office to host virtual leadership workshops for Club Officers.

Embracing Vulnerability & Building Collaboration
Mental Health & Inclusivity
Managing Change & Conflict and Compromise
Ethics & Motivating

176 Total Attendees

Club Awards

Men's Club Volleyball:

2021 National Club Volleyball Federation Virtual Champions



Powerlifting:

Served as hosts for 2021 USA Powerlifting Eau Claire Open at 3D Fitness



Cheer and Stunt:

2nd Place WACPC State Virtual Cheer



Best Team Performance: Men's Hockey

Secretary of the Year: Mikinley Prafke – Esports

Treasurer of the Year: Natalie Carbon – Cheer & Stunt

Safety Officer of the Year: Samantha Fitzsimmons – Women's Volleyball

Vice President of the Year: Taylor Wann – Dance

President of the Year: Makayla Mattson – Powerlifting

Best Recruitment: Men's & Women's Rugby

Best Marketing: Women's Ultimate Frisbee

Rising Club of the Year: Women's Lacrosse

Highest GPA Award: Nordic Ski

Club of the Year: Men's Volleyball

Club Sports added two new clubs this year:



Tennis



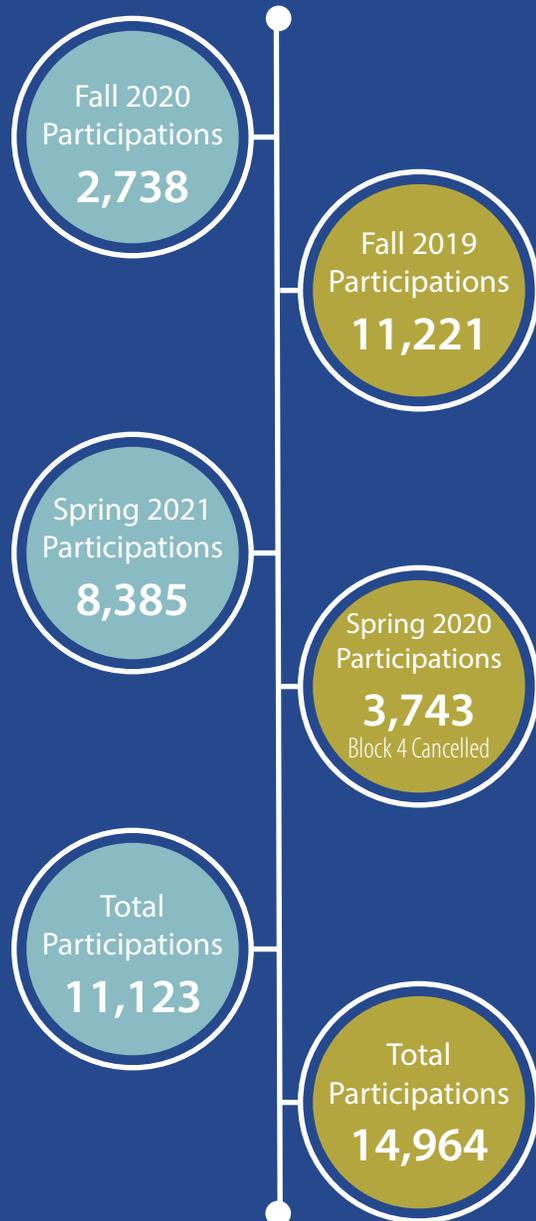
Disc Golf

We were a leader within the state for club sports as we undertook procedures and protocols that allowed us to progress in activity levels and find a safe way to conduct scrimmages at the end of the year. We were one of only a few schools that held full practices and hosted scrimmages. This was vital for the sustainability of club sports here at UW-Eau Claire and is a direct reason for the increase in total club members and the total number of clubs within our department.

Intramural Sports

The Intramural Sports program provides a diverse array of activities for students, faculty, and staff to stay active, create memories, and build friendships through engagement with the university community. Intramural Sports promote individual, and team play in league and tournament formats.

Over **60** men's, women's co-rec, and open leagues are offered to students, faculty, and staff who wish to recreate in structured activities. Our staff will strive to further teamwork, respect, fun, and family. Come as you are and **EXPERIENCE INTRAMURALS!**



Activities Offered

Fall 2019: **17** / Fall 2020: **33**
2x the amount offered from the previous year

Spring 2020: **22** / Spring 2021: **33**
11 more offered than the previous year

Intramural Sports offered several new offerings with safety as a top priority. Participant numbers were limited to ensure physical distancing.

Teams

Fall 2019 – **498**
3.75% increase from the 480 Fall 2019 Teams
 Spring 2020 – **517**

89.30% increase from the 271 Spring 2020 Teams
Large increase is due to not being able to run a Block 4 last year due to COVID

Total Teams: **1,015**
34.62% increase from 2019-20

With the need to run more individual and dual activities – especially during the Fall 2020 semester – we saw a large increase in team numbers since many teams were limited to 1-2 people. With this, total participants were down as we were unable to have “large” teams for most of the year.

In comparison to other UW institutions, UWEC programmed remarkably more activities and sports and were one of, if not the only, school who found a safe way to offer contact activities like basketball and soccer and return to large team sports like sand volleyball and flag football at the end of the Spring 2021 semester. This progression to normalized sport operations is exemplified in the return of larger participation numbers in the Spring 2021 semester.

New Additions & Highlights

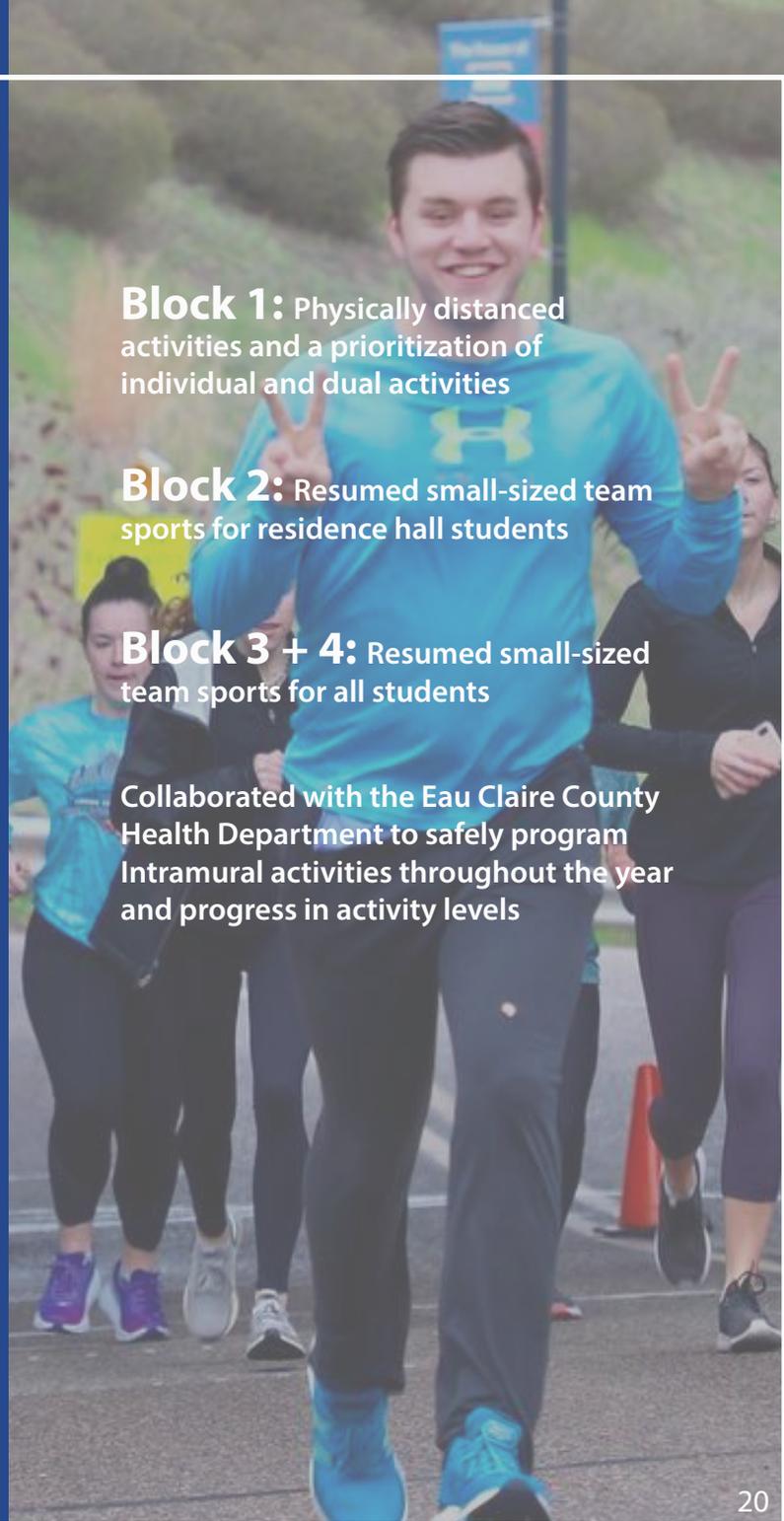
- Created and developed the Blugold IMs app – Specific app for intramural sports
- Purchased several yard games to accommodate for an increase in individual and dual activities
- Implemented Residence-Hall only leagues in response to COVID and the need for required antigen testing
 - Engaged 180 unique freshman
- Conducted some virtual official's training sessions
- Increased base pay of officials to \$8.00/hr starting FY22
- Initiated EDI Tier 3 Project: Inclusive Intramurals
- Conducted captain's meetings virtually

Block 1: Physically distanced activities and a prioritization of individual and dual activities

Block 2: Resumed small-sized team sports for residence hall students

Block 3 + 4: Resumed small-sized team sports for all students

Collaborated with the Eau Claire County Health Department to safely program Intramural activities throughout the year and progress in activity levels



Esports



The Esports program is designed to promote both a competitive and recreational gaming experience through the cultivation of an inclusive campus gaming community. Our program currently boasts 10 high-end Alienware gaming stations and maintains the capacity to allow for continued Esports expansion.

Game offerings include the newly added Call of Duty, Rainbow Six Siege, CS:GO, Apex Legends, League of Legends, Rocket League, Overwatch, Fortnite, and Super Smash Bros. Both a club team and general lab hours are offered. Through these multiple engagement outlets, the Esports program strives to engage our diverse Blugold audience.

Games Offered **New this year*

League of Legends	Overwatch	Super Smash Bro
Rocket League	Fortnite	*Apex Legends
*Rainbow Six Siege	*Call of Duty	*Counterstrike: Global Offense

Reopened at the beginning of Fall Semester with reduced capacity in the lab.

Club Team

- **170** members
- League of Legends A team - quarterfinals both semesters
- League of Legends B team - 2nd place fall semester
- Rocket league - 2nd place fall, top 50 spring
- Overwatch - 3rd place spring (first competitive semester)
- Developed a content team creation that streamed games and implemented a club podcast

Intramural Tournaments

- Hosted 13 Total: Rocket League (x3), Super Smash Bros (x2), League of Legends (x2), Among Us (x2), NBA 2K21, Overwatch, Call of Duty, CS: GO
- **68** total teams
- **81** total participants

Received a broadcasting desk as donation from Spectrum Furniture.



Environmental Adventure Center

Located in Hilltop Center, the EAC includes Adventure Trips, Archery Range, Bouldering Wall, Bike + Longboard Center, Climbing Wall, Disc Golf Course, Ropes Course, and Rentals.

UW-Eau Claire was the only UW campus in the system to offer safe and COVID friendly day trips.



Working for Recreation has meant so much to me. Most of my friends are also my co-workers and through the EAC I have developed lifelong skills that I will bring with me wherever I go.



Inclusive Programming

Winged Womxn Event – November 19

Winged Womxn is a climbing group organized to be inclusive of all women, including transgender and non-binary individuals, in our climbing community. We strive to be as welcoming, fun, and educational as possible to provide students of all ability levels an introduction to rock climbing.

COVID safe Bouldering Competition “Chalked Up”

2-day competition with a virtual podium for winner recognition.
36 UWEC Competitors

COVID safe Crate Stacking with UW River Falls and UW-Stout

Virtual live streamed with the three campuses.
42 UWEC Competitors + UW-RF and UW-S Competitors

New Intramural Climbing League in Fall and Winter

30 Climbers each session

KINS 301 Adventure Class / Learn to Climb / 2 sessions

24 UWEC Participants

New initiative

The "Equal Access Grant" was sponsored by the Student Office of Sustainability and intended to foster equitable access to the outdoors.

The UW-Eau Claire Student Office of Sustainability and Environmental Adventure Center recognized there were systemic barriers to the equal access of outdoor recreation.

Barriers to outdoor recreation can include financial cost, limited size availability in gear, a lack of adaptive programming, gender-based violence, racial discrimination, and not knowing outdoor recreation is an option due to a lack of representation.

The EAC created a trips calendar to include: ice climbing, rock climbing, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, and biking for students from all ability levels to participate in a fun and inclusive program. Students who applied had the cost of their trip covered.

80 Students Participated through this grant.

Climbing Wall

Memberships: **44**
Feb-March only, closed fall/late spring for antigen testing

Participations: **137**

Bouldering Wall

Participations: **6,231**

Adventure Trips

Trips: **20**
Participations: **180**

Fitness Centers



Crest Fitness Center

Members: **1,188**

Usage: **29,134**



McPhee Strength and Performance Center

Members: **2,115**

Usage: **46,685**

The two fitness centers on campus, Crest Fitness Center and the McPhee Strength and Performance Center, offer weight training, stationary bicycling, and the use of various aerobic-conditioning machines.

A robust Strength and Conditioning program serves the needs of our Blugold and Club Sport Athletes.



Working for recreation has allowed me to be a part of a small community here in the MSPC while being a part of a bigger group of staff (both students and faculty/full-time staff) that supports one another. Zac Ruch has truly shown me what it means to be a positive leader, strong leader over the last few years, and I thank him for the leadership experience the MSPC has taught me. Sports and Recreation has been a safe space for me on campus that has provided me with continued support over my last 3.5 years at UWEC. I have worked in the facility since my first semester freshman year, and it has been a great experience from day one.



Strength and Performance Programs

Kinesiology Department: 15 Student Apprentices

Hands-on experience training collegiate athletes: **1357** hours

Professional development meetings: **270** hours

Professional interview practice: **20** hours



Recreation Department: 25 MSPC students

Employed in customer service and facility maintenance positions: **2876** hours

Students employed in managerial positions: **527** hours



Athletics Department: 800 Student Athletes

Individualized team training: **663** hours

Planning, organization and meetings for individual athletes and teams: **1300+** hours



The Strength and Conditioning program expanded this year with the hiring of Assistant Strength and Performance Coach Connor Olson.

Virtual meetings with committed incoming freshman & transfer student-athletes about program organization & performance training: **14** hours

Key physical performance indicators tracked and shared with student athletes.

Fitness + Wellness Programs

Group Exercise

Over 40 Group Exercise classes each week during the semester in multiple locations in-person and virtually. FREE for all faculty, students, and staff. Numerous Group Ex staff took on a mentorship role training in instructors.

2018-2019 Typical Participation Numbers

Participations: **20,975**

2019-2020 Typical Fall, Limited Spring

Participations: **14,411**

2020-2021 Limited

Participations + additional participations on Zoom: **7,696**

Fit4Life

Participants work one on one with a Senior Kinesiology/Personal Training student on an individualized exercise program.

Program was on hold Spring 2021

Student Programmers: **3** Participants: **5**





Employee Wellness + Internship Program

Katie St. Germain – Employee Wellness Intern
A Healthier You – Employee Wellness Challenge
Participants: **64**

Massage Therapy

Massages (only one therapist due to COVID): **54**



Special Events



Tour de Rec



RecUnite



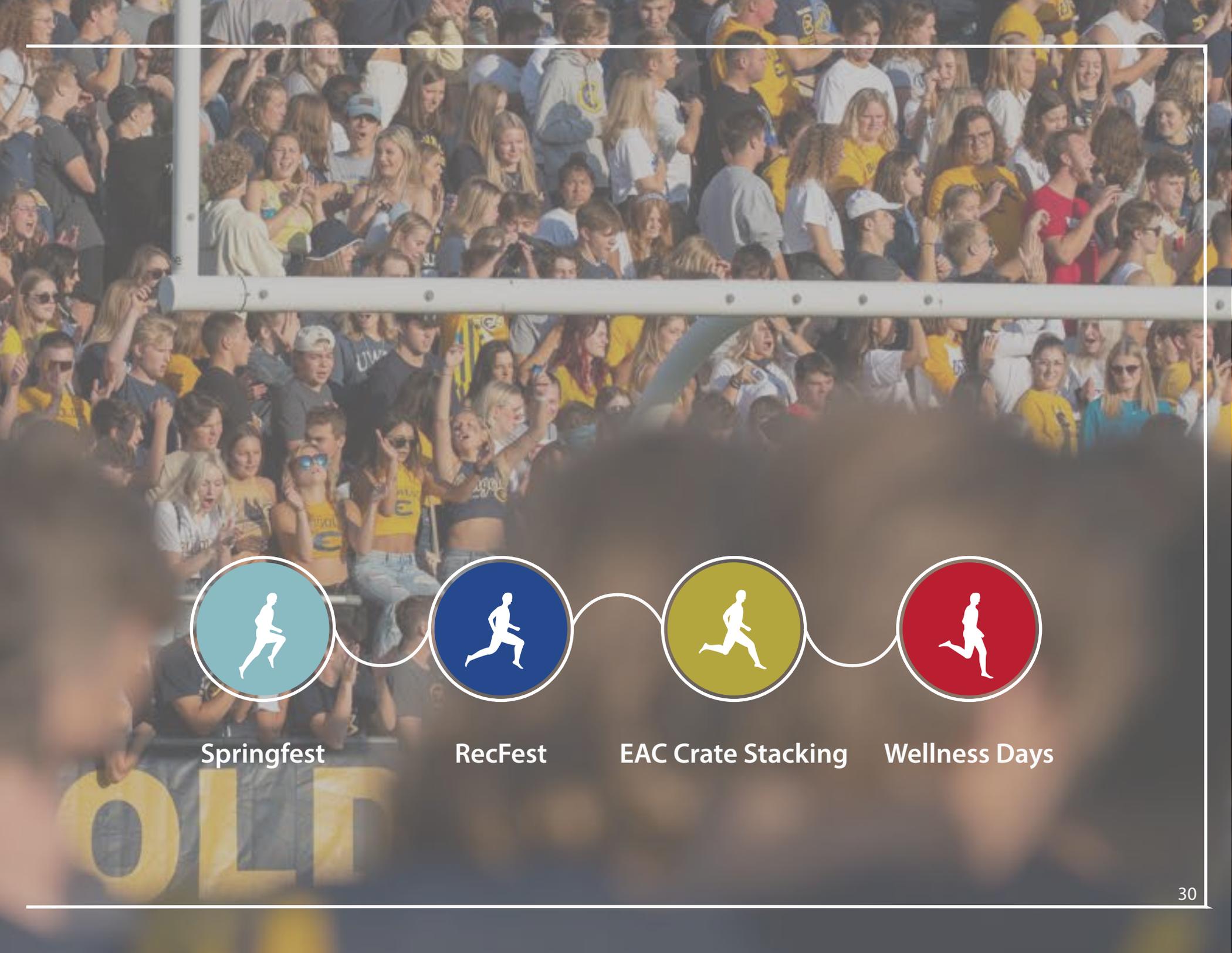
Winter Carnival



Costume Climb



EAC Festivities



Springfest



RecFest



EAC Crate Stacking



Wellness Days

OLD

Jig's Up Blugold Ice Fishing Contest

676
Fish Weighed



\$20,159
in Raffle Tickets Sold



\$47,545
Total Profit



1,464
Fish Tickets Sold



Saturday, February 6 8th Annual

UWEC Recreation, Blugold Athletics and the Lake Wissota Lion's along with title sponsors Scheels, Eau Claire Ford, and Airforce/Special Warfare come together to offer this winter event. Over \$80,000 in cash and prizes given out including a 2-year lease on a Ford F150 Truck and a Polaris Sportsman 450 4-wheeler, \$500 Scheels gift cards, and more. This event also included the Scheels Kids Klub fishing event.

Shamrock Shuffle



Virtual

The first 5K of the season with UW-Eau Claire Recreation took place March 13-20th. Participants chose who to participate with, created their own route and chose which day of the week to complete the event. Registration served as an entry into a drawing for Scheels gift cards.



Freshman Connection

The Freshman Connection Immersion Program is a 6-day educational experience designed to help incoming freshmen make a smooth transition to college life while developing their leadership potential. The program consists of workshops, group activities and adventure trips that focus on personal development, academics, goal setting, and social network development. Students gain self-awareness, create lasting friendships and develop a proactive approach to life as they prepare to begin their experience at UW-Eau Claire.



"I'm so glad I decided to do Freshman Connection. I was a little on edge about it because I didn't want to do it by myself... not knowing anyone scared me! I did it and they split us up into groups. That's where I met some of the BEST people! If I could do this again I would!!"

- Mary Thao



60 students participated in the adjusted program which moved from overnight experiences to day trips.

83.5% retained to their 2nd year, campus average is 81.9%

567 first year students identified by the Student Success Program received a direct mailing inviting them to participate and apply for a scholarship.

13 registered, **2** requested and received a scholarship.

91% agreed or strongly agreed that the Freshman Connection helped them feel more connected to the UW-Eau Claire Campus.

92% agreed or strongly agreed that the Freshman Connection helped them feel be more confident in their ability to be successful at UW-Eau Claire.

89% felt that their participation in Freshman Connection had been a High Impact Experience. *This meaning the program provided time devoted to purposeful tasks, helped them build substantive relationships, provided rich and valuable engagement with others, gave them opportunities to apply and test what they learned, and time to reflect on the person they are becoming.*

RecConnect offers engaging, small group programs that enable transfer students to meet other students transferring to UWEC while learning to navigate, engage, and become successful on campus. RecConnect is a fun, interactive way to begin the process of creating your own Blugold experiences.

100% agreed that because of RecConnect, they felt more connected to the UW-Eau Claire campus

100% felt RecConnect eased their transition to UWEC

84% felt RecConnect made them more confident in their ability to be successful at UW-Eau Claire.



Even though I am from Eau Claire, UWEC is a decently sized campus, and I didn't really know anyone that would be in my classes. RecConnect created familiar faces on campus when it came to the first day of school!

- Eliassah



I had a really enjoyable time at RecConnect. It eased my transition to a new campus and helped me make connections with other Blugolds!

- Sam



Key Performance Indicators

Below are our Key Performance Indicators, these demonstrate we are meeting our mission of providing student-centered recreational experiences that support wellness and enhance academic learning. Blugold ID numbers pulled from Recreation employees and participants were sent to Institutional Research who provided the following data.

GPA

University Average: **3.23**
Recreation Employees: **3.43**
All Recreation Participants: **3.26**
Climbing Programs: **3.31**
Club Sport Athletes: **3.23**
Esport Participants: **2.97**
Fitness Center Members: **3.25**
Group Exercise Participants: **3.52**
Intramural Participants: **3.29**

Retention to 2nd Year

University Average: **81.9%**
Recreation Employees: **87%**
All Recreation Participants: **84.4%**
Climbing Programs: No Data Available
Club Sport Athletes: **86.7%**
Esport Participants: No Data Available
Fitness Center Members: **84%**
Group Exercise Participants: **87.2%**
Intramural Participants: **87.4%**

4 - year Graduation Rate

University Average: **4.31**
Recreation Employees: **4.11**
All Recreation Participants: **4.17**
Climbing Programs: **4.0** (Only one student)
Club Sport Athletes: **4.23**
Esport Participants: No data available
Fitness Center Members: **4.14**
Group Exercise Participants: **4.05**
Intramural Participants: **4.18**

Participation Numbers

Recreation Employees: **159**
Climbing Programs: **914**
Club Sport Athletes: **723**
Esport Participants: **78**
Fitness Center Members: **3,339**
Group Exercise Participants: **521**
Intramural Participants: **2,738**

4,378
**Total Individual
Recreation Participants**

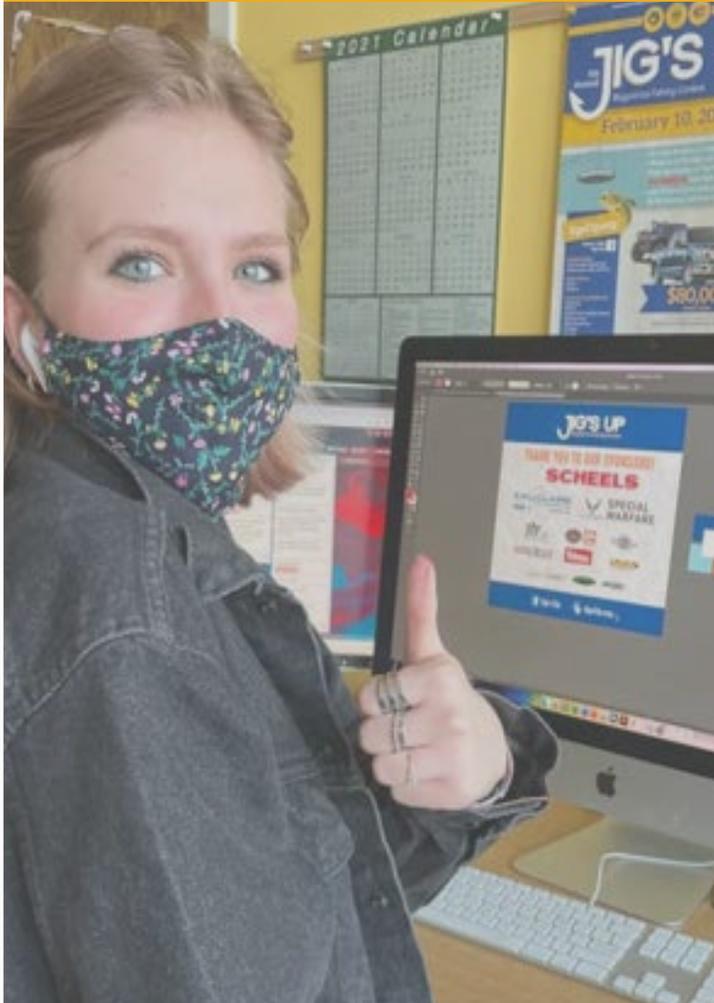
GPA is generally higher for Recreation Participants

Retention of Recreation Participants is well above the UWEC Average

Recreation Participants graduate in less time that the UWEC average

Student Employment

Student employees were given these three professional development mandatory trainings to complete over the year.



Blugold Service Excellence

This annual training session introduces participants to the five UWEC Service Excellence Standards: Approachability, Respect, Responsiveness, Effectiveness, and overall Well-being. It was designed to enhance participants' knowledge and offer a safe place to practice customer service excellence the Blugold way.

Tier 1 EDI Course Completion: 50-minute online training

- Students new to campus starting Fall 2020 (first years and transfers) had already taken it.
- All current employees had been enrolled.
- All future new hires will need to complete the training.
- This will be ongoing for 4-5 years until all Recreation student employees have taken the Tier 1 course. We will also continue to support Tier 2 courses.

Resiliency Training: 15 - week online training

Worked with SPARC to pilot a GRITT/ Resiliency program. Recreation students completed a pre and post survey and 5 modules educating on various coping/resiliency skills.

- Students completed a pre-survey before beginning the first module and completed a post-survey after completing the last module.
- There were 5 Modules that were uploaded to Canvas.
- Students had three weeks to complete each Module. The webinars were 15 minutes in length with an accountability assignment attached.
- 91% of students that took the post-survey stated they used one of more of the skills they learned in the trainings during the semester.

93% of Recreation Student employees feel that working for Recreation has been a High Impact Experience.

This meaning their employment provided time devoted to purposeful tasks, helped them build substantive relationships, provided rich and frequent feedback, gave opportunities to apply and test what they learned, and time to reflect on the person they are becoming.

\$681.50 was spent on student leadership development this year, less due to trainings being virtual and opportunities limited.



Student Employee Learning Outcomes

Recreation staff reviewed, discussed, and updated our Student Employee Learning Outcomes in the summer of 2019 to better align with our Key Performance Indicators, the Student Employee Learning Outcomes for Davies Student Center and Housing and Residence Life, and were approved by the University Assessment Director. Outcomes were based on the NACE 4 career competencies employers' value most.

Students who attend the Fall All Staff Training complete a Pre-survey and then these same students complete a Post-Survey in December to measure learning. Results are reviewed and areas of growth or decline are noted and guide our student development plans for the following year.

99% Strongly Agree, Agree, or Somewhat Agree that Students who work for Recreation will develop a sense of belonging within the Recreation Department and on campus, leading them to retain until graduation.

87% of Recreation student employees who set a SMART Goal have achieved it or are on their way to achieve it.

Students who work for Recreation demonstrate leadership skills.

99% of student employees Strongly Agree, Agree, or Somewhat Agree

Students who work for Recreation will solve problems, make difficult decisions, and think critically about issues that arise at work.

96% of student employees Strongly Agree, Agree, or Somewhat Agree

Students who work for Recreation interact with others in ways that demonstrate a respect for diversity.

99% of student employees Strongly Agree, Agree, or Somewhat Agree



Students who work for Recreation will identify meaningful connections between what they are learning in the classroom and how it relates to their employment with Recreation and their professional career after graduation.

94% of student employees Strongly Agree, Agree, or Somewhat Agree

Students who work for Recreation balance work, school, and personal affairs while maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

97% of student employees Strongly Agree, Agree, or Somewhat Agree

Where Are They Going?

Hanna Dockter

Group Exercise
Graduate school at UWEC in
Communication Sciences
and Disorders

Dalton Dowd

Strength & Conditioning Apprentice
Grad School in Athletic Training

Kodi Fezler

Strength & Conditioning Apprentice
University of Minnesota Athletic
Performance Internship

Emma Smith

McPhee Building Manager
Attending Grad School

MaKayla Mielke

McPhee Building Manager,
Strength and Performance Apprentice
Grad School Clinical
Exercise Physiology

Alexandra Donarski

Student Manager of Crest Fitness Center
Nursing at United Hospital in St. Paul
on a Neuroscience Stepdown Unit

Tristan Robole

EAC
Outdoor Coordinator applying for
positions in the outdoor field

Grace Vogt

Group Ex + MSPC
Pursuing Master's in Clinical
Exercise Physiology at UW- L

Josh Yira

Recreation Office
Business Coordinator at
Securian financial in St. Paul.
Graduated Cum Laude

Jacob Bilicke

EAC
Graduate school in Kentucky

Jenna Butterfield

McPhee Building Manager
Healthcare Administrator at
Covenant Living, Colorado

Olivia Kropp

Group Ex
Accepted into Life Chiropractic
School in Georgia

Megan Roehl

Recreation Office
Intern at Riverwest Food
Pantry in Milwaukee

Karli Olson

McPhee Building Manager
Nurse at Mayo Clinic,
Rochester, MN

Bailey Waldhauser

MSPC
Grad school in Occupational
Therapy in TX

Julia Wopat

EAC, Personal Trainer
Applying to grad schools

Anna Boxum

Lifeguard/Open Rec
Grad School for
Speech Pathology

Brian Eckle

Crest
Carrier Sales Account
Manager for Coyote
Logistics in Minneapolis

Brandon Thorson

Crest
Operations Management
for Cargill in Minnesota

Shelbi Noffke

McPhee Building Manager
Grad School for
Speech Pathology

Paige Ericson

Recreation Office
English teaching assistant in
France through TPEF

By far one of the most welcoming and inclusive communities on campus. Working with recreation has increased my confidence, helped me stay physically and mentally healthy, and created countless friendships. My college experience would not have been the same had it not been for recreation, I am honored to have been a part of this crew!

Recreation Interns in the Field

Recreation and Sport Operations offers an internship each semester during the academic year for students completing an undergraduate or graduate degree in recreation or a related field.

This full-time, undergraduate internship reports to the Assistant Director of Recreation and Sport Operations, is paid, and housing is included for undergraduate interns. Interns gain leadership and supervisory experiences in all aspects of our comprehensive programs.

Sawyer Morgan

Spring 2021
Graduate School
at Viterbo

Zoe Arnold

Spring 2017
University of Oregon, Coordinator
of Membership Services and
Community Outreach

Brett Odegard

Spring 2016
Recreation Specialist at
City of Duluth, MN

Megan Mulligan

Summer 2015
Aquatics & Inclusion Services
Manager at the City of Minnetonka

Nick Donahue

Fall 2015
Interim Assistant Director of
Campus Recreation at
UW-Superior

Mike Brosenne

Fall 2018
Waldorf University, Director
of Intramurals & Recreation

Garrett Larson

Fall 2016
Competitive Sports Coordinator,
UW-Eau Claire

Dani Licht

Spring 2016
Recreation Supervisor at
Owatonna Parks and Recreation

Samantha Rodenber

Spring 2015
Intramural Manager, University
of Washington

Katelyn Lutz

Fall 2013
Sports Director at
YMCA at Pabst Farms

Our Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Recreation and Sport Operations department became a leader for the COVID response.



At the beginning of the fall semester, we developed and implemented the COVID testing location for on-campus students with BINAX NOW testing in McPhee 210C.

Staff members ran all antigen testing reservations through the newly developed Blugold IMs app and IMLeagues – our intramural sports management software (unheard of across the country).



During the fall semester we developed and implemented the COVID testing location for off-campus students, faculty, staff and community antigen testing in the Davies Center Ball room.

With the need of the Davies Center Ballroom for classes in the spring, we moved the COVID testing location for off-campus students, faculty, staff and community antigen testing to Zorn Arena.

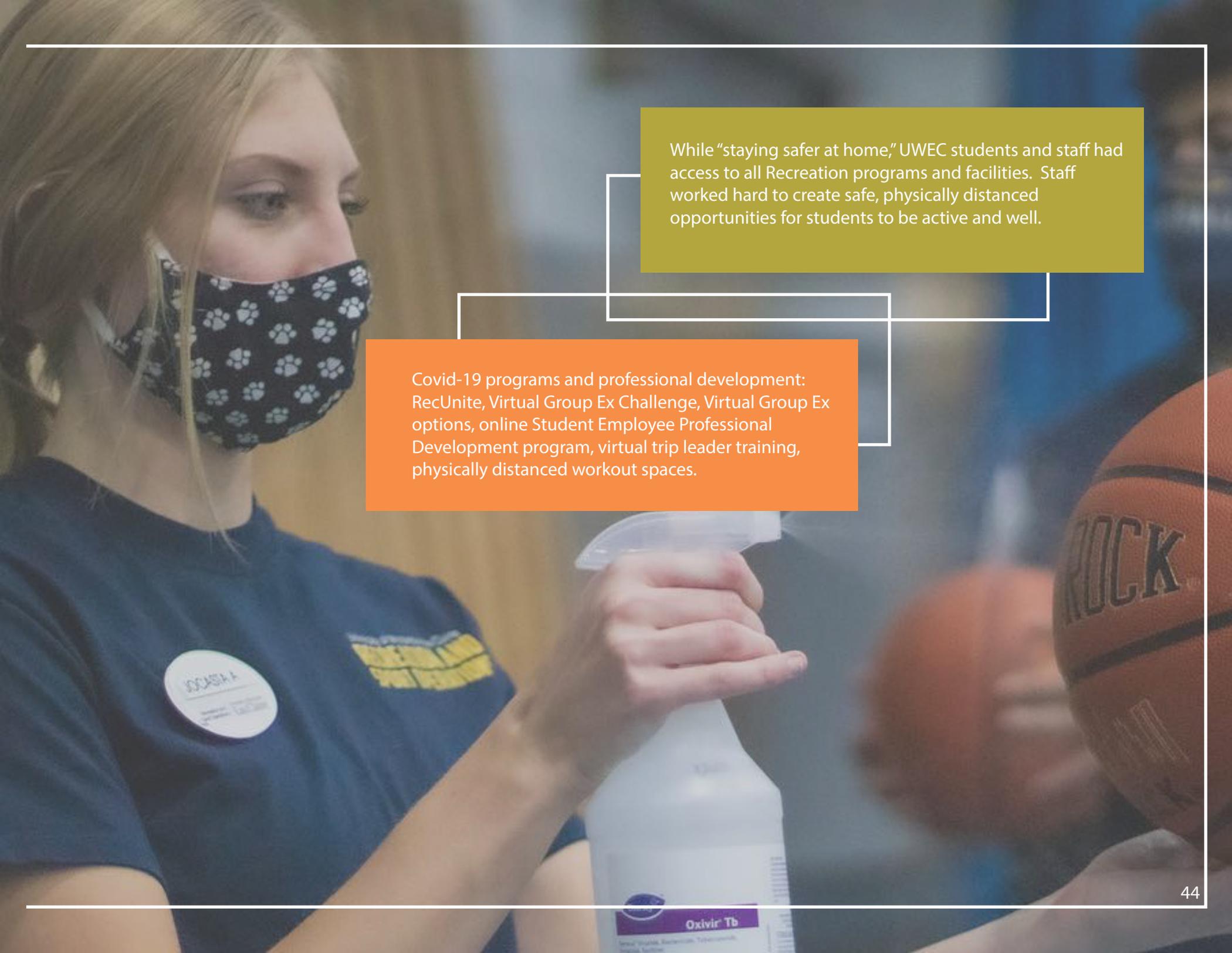


Due to the transition of COVID testing to Zorn Arena we successfully transitioned Men's and Women's Basketball practices and competitions from Zorn Arena to McPhee 210B. Many facility alterations occurred to comply with NCCA guidelines.

In the spring, we transitioned Zorn Arena into FEMA vaccination site.

With the transition of Zorn Arena to a FEMA vaccination site, we once again transitioned the COVID testing location for off-campus students, faculty, staff and community antigen testing to McPhee 210A.

As summer camps started up, the testing then moved to the Hilltop Lounge where it will remain until August.



While “staying safer at home,” UWEC students and staff had access to all Recreation programs and facilities. Staff worked hard to create safe, physically distanced opportunities for students to be active and well.

Covid-19 programs and professional development: RecUnite, Virtual Group Ex Challenge, Virtual Group Ex options, online Student Employee Professional Development program, virtual trip leader training, physically distanced workout spaces.

Community Outreach & Staff Involvement



Shari Breed and Brittany Wold completed Tier 3 of the EDI professional development program.

Andy Jepsen serves as secretary on the YMCA of the Chippewa Valley Executive Board.

Garrett Larson received officiating certificates in Basketball, Baseball, and Softball. He serves as the WIRSA Lead for the Competitive Sports Committee

Neil Ostlund is a certified American Red Cross Instructor and conducted 10 CPR courses for staff.

Zac Ruch is recertified as a Registered Strength and Conditioning Coach with Distinction.

Al Wiberg is the President of the Board of Directors for the Professional Climbing Instructors Association (PCIA) and a PCIA Provider Trainer.

Brittany Wold completed the Primary Group Exercise bi-annual recertification.

- ARCC Academic Advising
- Bike and Pedestrian Committee
- Campus Eating Disorder Committee
- Chronic Disease Prevention Action Team
- COVID 19/Eau Claire County Health/UWEC Team
- COVID Event Exception Review Team
- Emerging Leader Selection Committee
- Employee Wellness
- Excellence Awards Selection Committee
- GeekCon
- Growth Mindset for Leaders
- Holiday Gift Giving Program
- Leadership Development Series –
 - Leading yourself through transitions
- Priority Work Group : 2nd Year Retention Strategies
- Priority Work Group: 1st Year Success and Support
- Sport Facility Management Committee
- Student Orientation Integration and Engagement
- Student Wellness
- University Senate
- UWEC Campus Rapid Response Team
- UW-System surge testing committee



Shari Breed



Tammy Brunschmid



Austin Dickinson



Zach Hill



Andy Jepsen



Garrett Larson



Tyler Leonhard



Michael McHugh



Connor Olson



Neil Ostlund



Sheryl Poirier



Zac Ruch



Cade Stackpool



Al Wiberg



Brittany Wold

Stay Connected



@UwecRecreation



@uwec_recreation



UW-Eau Claire Recreation



Recreation App
"UWEC Recreation"



Competitive Sports App
"Blugold IMs"

Recreation and
Sport Operations

University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire



Designed by Kate Schwenker.