RPTA Consolidated report 2012-2013
Organized according to University Goals and Actions for
Higher Values in Higher Education 2008-2018

1. Focused recruitment and retention
IV. To recruit, retain and graduate a diverse group of undergraduate and graduate students.

Objectives
• Strengthen undergraduate enrollment at the Macomb Campus.
• Implement undergraduate enrollment strategies at the Quad Cities Campus.
• Implement a graduate program in RPTA at the Quad Cities Campus.
• Create multicultural and career initiatives.
• Sustain internal and external support for graduate assistantships.
• Increase the number of graduate assistantships.
• Upgrade and maintain a dynamic plan for recruitment of outstanding undergraduate and graduate students.

2012 Productivity Measures
1. Determine how graduate education can be sustained in greater Chicago land area to include the QC campus with additional personnel resources
2. Review the enrollment management plan that seeks to diversity the undergraduate and graduate student population within the Department

Accomplishments

1. Efforts have been planned and executed to strengthen undergraduate enrollment on the Macomb campus by the following recruitment activities:
   *Developed a six-member departmental Marketing Task Force
   *Participated in Discover Western and Advisors' Day recruitment activities
   *Offered Discovery Showcase, an exhibition of curricular options
   *Participated in Rock Ridge Senior High School College and Career Day, Columbia, MO
   *Participated in meetings with representatives from the selected community colleges including Spoon River, Morain Valley, College of DuPage, Illinois Central, Southeastern (Iowa) and Southeastern Illinois College
   * The Horn Field Campus providing group programs for regional high school classes, RPTA 110 class, fraternity/sorority groups and others support recruitment efforts
   *The Horn Field Campus Advisory Board is charged with helping in departmental recruitment efforts

2. Efforts have been planned and executed to strengthen undergraduate enrollments at the Quad Cities campus by the following activities:
   *Participated in meetings with staff of Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, IA and Sauk Community College, Dixon, IL
*Developed accelerated programs in special events and turf management with Scott County Community College and Muscatine Community College respectively
*Participated in meetings with staff of Black Hawk Community College which focused on therapeutic recreation

3. In efforts to strengthen graduate enrollments on the WIU-QC campus, faculty have recruited three (3) students who are pursuing the graduate degree

4. To create multicultural awareness department faculty provided leadership for disability cultural awareness events

5. To sustain internal and external support for Graduate Assistantship there continues to be four (4) supported by the Department while several graduate assistants work in Campus Recreation, WIU Foundations, SEP, and other programs throughout the University.

2. **Enrich academic excellence**

I. To serve the educational needs of students by providing a dynamic and highly effective learning environment.

**Objectives**

- Maintain a high level of teaching performance by all members of the faculty, including graduate assistants, part-time instructors, and temporary members of the faculty.
- Effectively utilize emeriti faculty in professional preparation of students.
- Increase involvement of outstanding practitioners in student learning experiences.
- Enhance the impact of the Department in the General Education Curriculum.
- Enhance technological supports for Horn Field Campus and selected classrooms in Currens Hall

- Implement quantitative and qualitative assessment methods to measure student outcomes and professional preparation to improve program performance.
- Seek feedback on curriculum from practitioners, coordinators, students, and alumni.
- Upgrade the curriculum in response to changes and challenges of society and the profession.
- Support and facilitate experiential learning (i.e.: RPTA 199 and 499, ECOEE, Outdoor Recreation Consortium, Travel Workshops and community service projects embedded in courses).
- Identify and participate in interdisciplinary experiences/programs.

**Accomplishments**

1. To increase the involvement of outstanding practitioners, faculty have invited professionals to become adjuncts and guest lecturers in fund-raising, park district management, camping, facilities management, resource management and other areas to enhance student learning

   * Alumni have been invited to present their perspectives on various professional and career interests to students during the annual Professional Development Conference
2. To sustain and improve professional preparation accreditation of the major by the Council on Accreditation of Park, Recreation and Related Professions has been maintained
   * Assessment data continues to be collected from internship experience and competency exams
   * The annual outcome report has been prepared for COAPRT
3. To identify societal changes and challenges, in addition to learning more about our study majors, all incoming majors received and completed a survey directed to their interests, needs and desires
4. Experiential learning opportunities have been included in classroom activities, over eight (8) travel workshops, Outdoor Recreation Consortium, the Environmental Conservation, Outdoor Education Expedition (ECOEE) and Horn Field Campus where group facilitator training, internships and special event leadership opportunities are offered

II. To provide an environment that encourages scholarly and creative activity.

**Objectives**

- Increase faculty dissemination of scholarship.
- Recognize faculty/student involvement in research and scholarly activity.
- Support different forms of scholarship, creativity, and research.
- Sustain internal and external support for research and scholarly activity.
- Support scholarly and creative activity at the international level.
- Maintain a visible level of collaborative research/teaching/service among RPTA faculty members.
- Encourage faculty/student presentations at university, state, regional, national and international conferences.
- Participate in a collaborative master’s degree in Museum Studies with the Art Department on the Quad Cities Campus.

**Accomplishments**

1. Faculty scholarship has been disseminated through five (5) publications including a book chapter and a book as well as over 33 presentations as state, regional, national and international professional meetings
2. International teaching and scholarly activity was accomplished through two (2) study abroad experiences to Spain and Bahamas respectively
   Increase faculty and faculty/student research and/or presentations.
3. The undergraduate curriculum has, and continues to be reviewed, and revisions were made based upon faculty, student and practitioner input.

3. Provide educational opportunities

- Encourage community-based learning and research.
- Sustain/enhance present library technology resources.
- Engage undergraduate students in peer and professional mentoring.
- Participate in the University’s First Year Experience for freshmen.
Accomplishments
1. New and expanded academic programs such as turf management and special events accelerated programs were developed at WIU-QC
2. For students on the WIU-QC campus community-based learning experiences were provided at Genesis Health Systems and Individual Advocacy Group while on the WIU-Macomb campus a number of classes offered service-learning opportunities in public, commercial and nonprofit sector organizations
2. An integrated baccalaureate/master’s degree program in Museum Studies/RPTA was developed and implemented while another BS/MS in RPTA is being formulated
3. RPTA 522 and 452(G) have been developed as online core graduate classes
4. Faculty developed minors in outdoor leadership and therapeutic recreation
5. Undergraduate and graduate students were supported to attend state, national conferences such Illinois Park and Recreation Annual Conference, Midwest Symposium on Therapeutic Recreation and Adapted Physical Activity, Nonprofit Leadership Alliance Management/Leadership Institute, American Camping Association and the Midwest Camping conference
6. WIU-QC students were engaged in the on-going professional mentoring program
7. Faculty delivered approximately four (4) sections of FYE classes which included three (3) for RPTA 110: Concepts of Leisure and one in RPTA 111: Introduction to Leisure Services

4. Support personal growth

• Support student involvement and leadership in professional development opportunities on/beyond the WIU Campuses (Macomb & Quad Cities).
  • Support plans to increase student participation in and appreciation of cultural, aesthetic, intellectual, and leadership events on and off campus
  • Develop educational opportunities designed to raise awareness of environmental issues

Accomplishments
1. Undergraduate students encouraged and supported to become involved in Student groups such as the Student Recreation Society, Horn Environmental Learning Project, Student Therapeutic Recreation Society, Rho Phi Lambda, Student Travel and Tourism Society among others offered by the Office of Student Activities and Campus Recreation
2. In efforts to raise awareness of environmental issues, faculty and staff of the Horn Field Campus lead sessions for the Environmental Summit, Outdoor Skills Seminars, prairie burn and the Horn Field Campus forest regeneration project

5. Promote social responsibility

III. To positively impact the quality of life throughout the Western Illinois region and beyond while servicing the broad-based needs of the leisure services profession, including those organizations involved in service delivery.
Objectives
• Establish partnerships and alliances to build upon the assets of rural Illinois to meet critical and regional needs.
• Expand contributions to the professional development needs of Illinois practitioners, and where possible beyond Illinois.
• Establish research/outreach focus relative to leisure over the lifespan.
• Provide services to WIU, the western Illinois region, and the leisure services profession through Horn Field Campus (HFC) that includes leadership development, environmental education and environmental sciences, and sustainability.
• Foster professional visibility of the RPTA Department through involvement in state, national and international organizations/associations.

Accomplishments
• Faculty and departmental staff consulted with external advisory board which consisted of practitioners to help advance the department mission
• Horn Field Campus was and continues to be used by internal student groups and external groups as a site for classroom instruction for environmental awareness, team building and social events.
• Memberships in state and national professional organizations has been maintained by the department

6. Demonstrate accountability
Objectives
• Maintain fiscal accountability
• Develop performance measures by which to assess department productivity
• Complete the strategic planning process (visioning process)
• Provide monthly strategic planning reports
• Use annual consolidated report to advance department goals and accountability
• Incorporate university and college benchmarking information into department strategic plan
• Update website information
• Document degree, certificate completion

Accomplishments
1. The Department purchased fiscal management software to better track and distribute funds from various departmental accounts (e.g., scholarship, travel study, etc.)
1. The Department’s strategic plan was reviewed and considered to update the purpose, timeline, outcomes
2. Efforts are underway to better increase and track Foundation account balances for the department
3. Faculty developed and continually update the departmental website and Face Book pages both of which offer links to careers in recreation, park and tourism services