

At-Large Director: Alex Accetta

Portland State University

Biography/Summary Resume

Alex Accetta's interest in recreation is life-long. As a committed runner and mountain biker, it was a run through a clear-cut forest in Oregon's coastal mountain range that set in motion a career that would eventually lead to a passion for NIRSA and the positive impact that collegiate recreation has on today's students.

With a BA in Political Science and an MA in Higher Education from Stanford University, Alex's career has spanned coast-to-coast. He has been a policy analyst in Washington, DC; an assistant director for admissions at Willamette College of Law; a cross country and track coach at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado; and an Assistant Director of Student Activities at Marist College in New York.

But while those jobs were meaningful, they did not combine his passion, forged during that run through a clear-cut, of combining recreation and sustainability. When an Advisor for Student Recreation position opened up at Portland State University, Oregon's largest university, Alex jumped at the chance to return to the Pacific Northwest to try and implement his ideas.

New to the collegiate recreation field, Alex quickly got involved with the NIRSA as it was the richest resource he could find to learn about the field. As a result of the great camaraderie Alex found through NIRSA, he quickly volunteered for roles in the Association, including: Ethics Committee; William Wasson Student Awards Committee (eventually becoming the Chair); Oregon State Director; Host Chair for the inaugural joint facilities/aquatics/fitness symposiums; and Learning Outcomes knowledge community among others. Alex also helped form and sat on two new committees, 1) Sustainability and 2) Disability and Adaptive Sports.

Successfully contributing on these levels, Alex was asked to participate in the Young Leaders Advisory Group, to be a member of the Student Roles and Responsibilities Work Team during the governance transition and to participate in the most recent strategic planning session for NIRSA in May of 2011. Alex is currently combining all of those experiences to help educate new professionals as a faculty member of the National School of Rec Sports Management and was elected as an at-large member of the Board of Directors in January of 2012.

During his eleven years at Portland State, Alex has been the lead student affairs professional responsible for the concept and implementation of a \$35 million LEED Gold student recreation center. Growing into his position as the building came to fruition, Alex became the Director at Portland State in 2005, and now supervises 17 staff, over 200 student employees, and a 6.6 million dollar budget. He continues to hope to create positive social change through collegiate recreation so that nobody has to run through a clear-cut in the future.