

## **CRW Students Attend NIRSA National Conference 2018!**

Funded through generous donations 13 students, including 4 Graduate Assistants, from Campus Recreation & Wellness were granted an extraordinary experience at the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association's annual conference. The students traveled to Denver, Colorado over their spring break with the opportunity to meet with individuals from other schools from around the United States as well as Canada. With the opportunity for student professional development and a prime environment for networking, Pirates that attended were able to experience a once in a lifetime trip.

Several students going used the networking opportunity as a way to set up potential internship and even post-graduation plans. Campus Recreation & Wellness Graduate Assistant Chase Norman said that the conference was a perfect time for him to try and get his foot in the door.

“So my conference was not so much about learning as it was about networking. I am currently a second year Graduate Assistant and looking for my first job in the field; I attended a session on NIRSA Championship series, which discussed all the NIRSA tournaments that have been held over the past year. Additionally, I attended sessions that discussed the transition from graduate assistant to first time professional. Sessions such as these seemed more beneficial to me as I am looking for that first job and want to succeed wherever I go.”

Two of CRW's Fitness Interns were able to travel with the group to Denver and both mentioned being able to connect with individuals from other schools who face similar problems at their institutions. These students also collaborated with each other on different approaches for their own day-to-day obstacles. Nick Sanchez said the conference provided a unique opportunity for him.

“You learn a lot from other schools, the problems they are facing and what they are doing to combat some of those issues. I also enjoyed being able to connect with people from other schools, it created some opportunities that I wouldn't have if I didn't participate in the conference.”

Mersaud Naderi, CRW's other Fitness Intern who traveled on the trip, said that he was able to identify an important piece of himself.

“I think the biggest thing was seeing the difference in how small schools operate compared to big schools, private schools and even schools in Canada. We had a lot of great workshops on personal development. One thing I got out of the workshops was they asked me “what's my why”. Basically they were asking what's your purpose in life. It helped me realize that my purpose in life is to help other people.”

Students that attended were provided with the opportunity to attain certifications and many other useful professional development tools. The Marketing Graduate Assistant, Jalen Courts, said that he used his experience at the conference as a way to observe techniques other schools use but also to further his own skillset.

“I gained a lot of insight regarding the ins and outs of NIRSA and how other universities operate. The career services center was a tool for resume review, mock interviews and job postings. I spent a lot of time here and was able to gain a lot of great insight regarding how I can be a better marketing professional”

NIRSA is the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association, whose headquarters is in Corvallis, Oregon. NIRSA is the leader in higher education and advocate for the advancement of recreation, sport and wellness and provides educational and developmental opportunities for its members. The Pirates that were able to travel to this conference were granted the opportunity to network and enhance skills that are applicable to their desired profession.