

### Summary Document-Service

Allie Thomas embraces service and creates an innovative, multifaceted intersection of professional service that culminates with a simultaneous trifecta of enhanced student learning, multiple benefits to underserved communities, and advances the dynamic profession of recreation therapy. Allie began her career at Texas State University as a lecturer in the Department of Health and Human Performance (HHP). Allie's professional experience in the field of Recreation Therapy, combined with her dedication to engaged student learning provided her with a strong foundation for success both in and outside of the classroom. In 2011, Allie was promoted to Senior Lecturer and teaches courses and oversees internships and fieldwork in Therapeutic Recreation. Service is a fundamental core component of Allie Thomas's professional life. Allie welcomes service (e.g., professional and community) as a means for her to continue providing phenomenal learning experiences for herself and her students. Since her arrival at Texas State, her commitment to adapted sports programming across the lifespan for individuals with physical impairments, cognitive impairments, veterans, and youth at-risk has not wavered. Allie Thomas has established two national Paralympic sporting events including wheelchair basketball and track and field. In addition, Allie designed, implemented and coordinated an international amputee soccer fundraiser, sporting event, and capitol showcase for the Haitian National Amputee soccer team. Most recently, Allie has created an adventure-based group activity program for students in the San Marcos Independent School District Alternative Education Program (DAEP). In addition, when needed, Allie Thomas has also devoted time to taskforces, committee work, and mentorship facilitation for the University and the profession. This work has provided the opportunity to present and promote therapeutic recreation as a positive tool to improving health and wellness across the state and region. As part of her professional obligation, and since she is a faculty member of the sole Therapeutic Recreation academic program in Texas, she feels it is her duty to help promote and increase awareness of recreation therapy. Her dedication to advancing therapeutic recreation practices and enhancing programs is also evident by her regular engagement in professional development opportunities both as attendee and presenter. Outlined below are highlights encompassing Allie's sustained commitment to service, recognition of her contributions, and the impact of her leadership.

#### **Sustained Commitment**

Coordinator. Larry Turner Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, *Note:* 2017 – 20 teams with 4 divisions. Completely plan and implement a two-day tournament for Division II, Division III, Women's, Military, Junior and Prep wheelchair basketball teams on a multi-state level.

Coordinator. National Haiti Amputee Soccer Team; *Note:* 2-week event, programmed awareness for the sport of amputee soccer on the Texas State campus and the State Capitol in Austin, where the players scrimmaged on the grounds of the State Capital.

Coordinator. 6 week Rebound Program for San Marcos Independent School District Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) 6-12. *Note:* 6-week program each long semester for Texas State TR students and SMCISD DAEP students to collaborate. Texas State student's in REC 4320 prepare a lesson/session and implement to the SMCISD students, they work on outcome driven goals and attempt to enhance coping skills, leisure education, self-esteem, responsibility, safety, respect, and more using recreation activities in a therapeutic process. DAEP School, Sewell Park, and the Meadows Center, San Marcos, Texas.

Co-coordinator. Texas Regional Paralympic Track and Field Clinic. *Note:* Provided a two-day

national perspective to athletes, students, and coaches to advance skills related to each area of their designated expertise. Held both lecture and descriptive sessions as well as a hands-on clinic with Paralympic athletes and coaches. Partnered with Texas State Athletics, Health and Human Performance Department students and faculty, and Texas Paralympic Sport. February, Texas State University, Jowers, Endzone Complex, and Track, San Marcos, Texas.

Co-coordinator. Ranch Day for San Marcos Independent School District Special Education Programs K-12. *Note*: 1-day sensory stimulation special event for Texas State TR students and SMCISD SPED students to further increase development in social skills, coping skills, and positive recreation activities. Texas State University, Freeman Ranch Center, San Marcos, Texas.

Committee Member. (March). Item Review Committee, National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC). New City, New York.

Nontenure Line Faculty Committee. College of Education, Department of Health and Human Performance, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas.

Member. University Leadership Assembly. College of Education, Department of Health and Human Performance, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas.

Secretary. Faculty Advisory Council. College of Education, Department of Health and Human Performance, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas.

Co-Advisor. Association of Recreation Enthusiasts (A.R.E.) Student Organization, Department of Health and Human Performance, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas

Advisor. Adapted Sport Club of Texas State (A.S.C.O.T.S) Student Organization, Department of Health and Human Performance, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas

Chair. Awards Committee, Texas Recreation and Park Society, Past Chair TR Branch

Planning Committee Member. American Therapeutic Recreation Association Mid-Year Conference; Therapeutic Recreation Symposium for the Southwest

### **Internal/External Recognition**

Presidential Award of Honor, Texas Recreation and Park Society, Waco, Texas.

Jerry Garrett Memorial Young Professional Award, Texas Recreation and Park Society, Abilene, Texas.

Organization of the Year. Student Organization Council Boko Awards, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas.

National Student Organization of the Year, National Recreation and Parks Association, Chicago, Illinois.

### **Impact and Significance**

Allie Thomas has a fervent belief that service provides a venue for her personal growth as an educator and practitioner in the field of therapeutic recreation. Her passion and commitment to the field is infectious and inspiring. Allie's leadership roles in service have provided our students with much more than experiential learning opportunities. Our students have witnessed the true meaning of a caring educator. Equally important is the positive impact the community participants (e.g., underserved youth, veterans, individuals with physical impairments) have gleaned from participating in a plethora of sporting, leisure, and leadership programs often not available to underserved individuals. In addition to the numerous service programs Allie leads; she consistently assists her colleagues with the coordination and implementation of an adapted aquatics program and multiple outreach events at the Freeman Ranch for underserved San Marcos youth.