Award Title

Movin' Mavs Adapted Sports and Recreation

Awards Categories

Athletics, Recreation, Physical Fitness, Non-Varsity Sports and related

Executive Summary

According to the U.S. Department of Education – Office for Civil Rights web site: “More and more high school students with disabilities are planning to continue their education in postsecondary schools, including vocational and career schools, two- and four-year colleges, and universities.” (http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html). It is therefore incumbent on these institutions to work with students in this population to offer the best possible programming and services for these students, as they would any student enrolling at that institution. This statement reflects the attitude of the administration at the University of Texas at Arlington ever since 1978, when Jim Hayes (a student in a wheelchair) asked University officials to sit in a wheelchair and push through a “walking” tour of the campus. Before the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, our University Community began developing the reputation as a leader in making the adjustments necessary to help students with disabilities become successful students. In meeting with the Mission of the University, as well as the Mission and Values of the Division of Student Affairs, significant resources in time, energy and funding have helped the Movin’ Mavs Adapted Sport and Recreation program become a highlight of the Diversity and Accessibility Vision of our campus. Because of the variety of needs and services that students with disabilities face when making the transition into University life and full participation in a University community, it is difficult for post-secondary professionals to develop programs and services that can be available to help with this transition. The development of the Adapted Sports and Recreation program can be seen on the University of Texas Arlington in several areas of campus life, allowing for a diverse and accessible environment for all students to enjoy, grow and succeed. Movin’ Mavs Adapted Sports and Recreation Program Success a) Collaboration with UTA Leadership Center, Department of Multicultural Affairs, Office of Students with Disabilities, Campus Recreation Programs b) Development of Intramural program for students with disabilities and able body students studying for professional careers working with this population (Pedagogy, Nursing, Athletic Training, Physical Therapy, Social Work) c) Development of Community Programs working with local sport programs for children and adults with disabilities d) Programming partnership/Collaboration with US Paralympics, including significant grant funding and Paralympic Sport Arlington programs e) Programming partnership/collaboration with United States Tennis Association, including competitive wheelchair tennis programs, partnership with UTA Tennis on Campus Club and grant funding. f) Programming/collaboration with National Wheelchair Basketball Association, including funding opportunities, tournaments and competitive wheelchair basketball program g) Development of internship opportunities for future professionals looking to work in the field of adapted sport and recreation, including coaching, athletic training, programming and marketing h) Collaboration with UTA Academic Departments (Kinesiology, Psychology, Social Work, Education) on
research opportunities in the area of disability sport and recreation

i) Student Success program directed toward increased graduation rates and academic development

**Award Description**

a) Collaboration with UTA Leadership Center, Department of Multicultural Affairs, Office of Students with Disabilities, Campus Recreation Programs developed to partner with these UTA Departments include Movin’ Mavs attendance and participation in the Annual Leadership Retreat and development of a Leadership development within the Competitive Adapted Sports programs (Team Captains and Freshmen Leaders), Athletes represented in Freshman Leaders on Campus and UTA Constituency Councils and Committees, participation in the MAVERSITY program with Department of Multicultural Affairs, Education and Awareness Programs with the Office of Students with Disabilities, participation in Campus Recreation Programs like Annual Birthday Party and other student events. These programs help create a campus that is not only inclusive in the physical environment, but also inclusive in the social environment of accepting and celebrating differences and successes of all students.

b) Development of Intramural program for students with disabilities and able bodied students studying for professional careers working with this population (Pedagogy, Nursing, Athletic Training, Physical Therapy, Social Work) The Adapted Sports and Recreation programs provide opportunities for UTA students to become active in the Campus Recreation component of student life and growth. At UTA, the Movin’ Mavs Adapted Sports programs work with Office of Students with Disabilities and the Department of Campus Recreation to provide equipment and expertise in planning and programming a full intramural sports program that includes Boccia, Billiards, Wheelchair Tennis, programs for Visually Impaired students, 3 on 3 wheelchair basketball, 4 on 4 wheelchair football, Badminton, and Table Tennis. These programs are also designed to include able bodied students who are studying in academic fields and professional paths that include working with students with disabilities, giving these students an opportunity to interact with and participate in activities for this population.

c) Development of Community Programs working with local sport programs for children and adults with disabilities d) Programming partnership/Collaboration with US Paralympics, including significant grant funding and Paralympic Sport Arlington programs

Knowing that many young people with disabilities have never been exposed to opportunities in sport and recreation, the creation of Paralympic Sport Arlington has allowed us to partner with US Paralympics to qualify for grant funding that has been used to program Paralympic Sport Clinics in several sports (track and field, wheelchair tennis, wheelchair basketball, visually impaired soccer, table tennis, indoor wheelchair soccer swimming and quad rugby), including clinics and camps and competitions for injured service veterans. We also provide competitive sport funding for injured service veterans to attend college while also continuing to train at Regional and National levels in adapted sports programs.

We have participated with a variety of academic departments in developing student and faculty research projects designed to understand disability and disability issues (Communications, Education, Kinesiology, Psychology).
e) Programming partnership/collaboration with United States Tennis Association, including competitive wheelchair tennis programs, partnership with UTA Tennis on Campus Club and grant funding. f) Programming/collaboration with National Wheelchair Basketball Association, including funding opportunities, tournaments and competitive wheelchair basketball program

On top of these services, the Movin’ Mavs have developed a competitive sports program for student-athletes with disabilities to train and compete at the highest levels of disability sport, including National Championships sanctioned by disability sport National Governing Bodies (NGB) like the Intercollegiate Division of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association and the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) of the United States Tennis Association. The Movin’ Mavs have won seven National Championships in wheelchair basketball and finished 3rd in the 2009-2010 season. In tennis the wheelchair tennis team won the ITA Doubles National Championship and had one athlete who won the Tier 2 Singles National Title.

In 1992 the University of Texas Arlington became the first University in the U.S. to provide full wheelchair basketball scholarships for our athletes, and since that time every other collegiate wheelchair basketball program in the Division has worked to match our financial support of student athletes with disabilities. Our wheelchair basketball program has grown from seven to sixteen athletes (all of different forms of University financial aid/scholarship) and this year our wheelchair tennis program will send six players to ITA National Championships.

g) Development of internship opportunities for future professionals looking to work in the field of adapted sport and recreation, including coaching, athletic training, programming and marketing

The staff now includes a full time Head Coach/Assistant Director of Campus Recreation/Adapted Sports, a graduate assistant/certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist, a team manager and an athletic trainer along with a part time assistant coach. With the growth of disability sport throughout the U.S., and the movement toward more disability sport programs in public schools, we believe it is important to work on developing professionals who will be trained in working with this population. Throughout the semesters we have had interns through the Department of Kinesiology who have helped us with projects like Paralympic Sport Clinics, Intramural programming, community marketing, strength and conditioning workouts, wheelchair tennis programming, educational video for wheelchair sports.

h) Collaboration with UTA Academic Departments (Kinesiology, Psychology, Social Work, Education, Communications) on research opportunities in the area of disability sport and recreation

The Movin’ Mavs Adapted Sport and recreation program has worked with students in several departments to implement research designed to focus attention on the needs and programs of people with disabilities. Through the Department of Education we have worked with students to study the benefits of sport participation for students with physical disabilities. With the Kinesiology Department our athletes have participated in studies involving training and VO2 Max Physiology, Physical Activity patterns and students with disabilities and differences in
movement patterns based on levels and types of disabilities. Several of our students are Social Work Majors and have participated in a variety of projects within the Social Work Department, and currently we are providing research populations with the Psychology Department studying group dynamics. Students from the Department of Communications visit almost weekly with the Movin’ Mavs sport teams and find material for radio and television stories for student broadcast journalism projects. Student broadcasters gain experience as announcers for Movin’ Mavs games. Because of their history of work in partnering with the Movin’ Mavs to cover the abilities of students with disabilities, the UTA Department of Communications and Shorthorn Newspaper recently were awarded the Barbara Jordan Media Award by the Texas Governors Committee for People with Disabilities. UTA Coverage of Movin’ Mavs programs can be viewed on the Adapted Sports Web site at: www.utamovinmavs.com. There are also links to some of the educational video that we have posted on youtube as well as some of the UTA News stories that have been published about this program.

i) Student Success program directed toward increased graduation rates and academic development The Movin’ Mavs have developed an academic success program for our student athletes designed to provide support and academic engagement. Freshmen and at risk athletes (below 2.75 cumulative gpa) participate in mandatory study hours in our study area (3 desk top computers and 3 lap top computers, printer) and access to tutors. The culture and history of the program focus attention on the role of the individual in being successful as a student first and athlete second. Student athletes who are special admits to the University also participate in the University Gateway program until they have established a record of academic success.

Assessment Data

As a part of the UTA Division of Student Affairs, the Adapted Sports Program regularly completes assessment, goals and objectives and student learning outcomes. Some examples of these include:

a) Academic Success b) Benchmarking c) Personal Development d) Top End Speed d) Court Vision e) One on One Assessment

Goal: Seventy Five percent of Movin’ Mav participants will have either a semester or a cumulative grade point average at or above 2.75 Action Steps: 1. Conduct Study Hall Sessions 2. Review Academic Records 3. Contact Faculty for progress reports Criteria for Success: This objective will be successful if over 75% of the team has a GOA of 2.75 or higher. Type of Assessment: Review GPA of each athlete

Results: As of the fall 2009 semester ending grade reports, 13 of the 16 Movin’ Mav players and support staff had a fall semester OR cumulative GPA higher than 2.75. What we learned: Our program has the structure in place to support academic success as well as the expectation that our student-athletes can and will work toward academic excellence. Moving Forward: While we are pleased with our results from the Fall semester, history has demonstrated that Spring is usually more difficult for our Wheelchair Basketball players. We will continue to monitor academic performance for Spring Semester and make adjustments as necessary for coming semesters.
Goal: GO: Provide services and programs that serve the needs of athletes with disabilities in competitive sport programs

Action Steps: 1. Determine other appropriate departments to benchmark 2. Conduct a benchmarking study and evaluate results 3. Implement possible changes

Criteria for Success: This objective will be successful if benchmarking studies are conducted and possible changes are implemented. Type of Assessment: Benchmarking Study, evaluation

RESULTS
According to a recent NIRSA study: less than 12% of all colleges and Universities have a dedicated position for adapted sports and recreation puts UTA in the top 88% of Colleges and Universities in the U.S. in dedicating resources to provide programs for this population. Currently, UTA is one of only 7 Universities in the country that compete in the NWBA Intercollegiate Division, putting us in the top 1% of programs in the country dedicating resources toward Intercollegiate Athletics for students with disabilities. Of these 7 programs, UTA is one of only three that offer more than one sport opportunity for sport participation. Four of the seven, plus one other college program offer competitive WCBB opportunities for female athletes with disabilities

Moving Forward: UTA is at the forefront of development in the field of disability sport and funding for disability sport. We need to address how our program can work within the budget, staffing and facility constraints to meet the needs of female student athletes with disabilities. We will continue to work as a leader in the field to help other College and University programs develop competitive sport opportunities for student athletes with disabilities.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVE
Members of the WCBB team will demonstrate a decrease in top-end speed.

Action Steps: 1. Participants were evaluated/timed during pre-season workouts 2. Participants attended conditioning and skills practices 3. Participants were evaluated at the end of the season

Criteria for Success: The outcome will be successful if 80% of the team members show a decrease in timed speed by the end of the season. Type of Assessment: Skills Test with stopwatch

RESULTS
Of the 13 athletes who finished the season, all 13 demonstrated a decrease in timed speed on the base-line to free throw testing. What we learned: Our current training and conditioning program was successful in helping develop the speed that our athletes need to reach their personal goals in the sport. Moving Forward In comparing our top-end speed times with trials from the US National Team Try-outs, our athletes are still a little slower than National Team athletes as per classification levels. Continued improvement will be necessary for our athletes to reach National Team Goals.

Student Learning Outcome: Members of the wheelchair basketball team will correctly read and identify effective mismatch situations in an offensive set.

Action Steps: 1. Participants were instructed on floor spacing and basic reads in mismatch situations 2. Students participated in mismatch situations during regularly scheduled practices 3. Student success in mismatch situations was monitored during regularly scheduled practices and drills

Criteria for Success: The outcome will be successful if the team is able to create a scoring opportunity on a mismatch.
situation over 50% of the time in game situations Type of Assessment: Mismatch situations will be measured and recorded during Movin’ Mav practices

The team began the season scoring 56% on mismatch situations in practice drills (2 on 1, 3 on 2, 4 on 3 and 5 on 4). By the end of the season the team was achieving 68% scoring on the same mismatch situations in practice and 64% scoring in mismatch game situations. What we learned: Reading the floor is a cognitive skill that is important in maximizing individual and team performance. As such it must be isolated and practiced in order to develop. Moving Forward We will continue with our current strategies of using mis-match simulations as part of practice warm up, including group discussion and individual focus on reading and reacting successfully.

One on One Player Assessments

As part of the Adapted Sport Assessment program, one on one player evaluations are conducted each semester. A rubric has been developed that presents criteria used to discuss player development in the following areas. Cognitive and Affective Domain criteria were established using Bloom’s Taxonomy of the respective domain, and Psychomotor Domain criteria were established using Harrow’s Taxonomy of the Psychomotor Domain.

Psychomotor Domain a. Perception, Set and Guided Response b. Physical Abilities and Skilled Movement c. Adaption and Origination
