

# Starting a Collegiate Level Adaptive Athletics Program

Jennifer Ruddell, PhD



# ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL



## Wheelchair Basketball

- Univ of Illinois- men's and women's
- Auburn University
- Edinboro Univ
- SW Minn State
- Univ of Alabama- men's and women's
- Univ of Nebraska-Omaha
- Univ of Missouri
- UT Arlington- men's and women's
- UW Whitewater- men's and women's
- Eastern Washington Univ

## Other Adaptive Sports

- Univ of Illinois- track and field
- Univ of Alabama- wc tennis
- Univ of Arizona- wc rugby, track and field, wc tennis
- UTA- wc tennis
- Penn State- track and field and sled hockey

# Intramurals

- **Clemson University- wcbb**
- **Ball State- wcbb, power soccer**
- **University of Central Oklahoma- sit volleyball**
- **ASU- power soccer**
- **Ball state- power soccer**
- **Michigan State- swimming, goalball, wc tennis, wcbb, floor hockey**
- **University of New Hampshire- sled hockey, quad rugby, power soccer**

# **NGBs- National Governing Bodies**

- **US Paralympics (International)**
- **NWBA**
- **USATF, IAAF, US Paralympics Track and Field**
- **USA Swimming**
- **USATA**

# Program Placement

- Athletic Department
- Campus Recreation
- Academic Department
- Disability Services

# Funding opportunities

- Research
- Student Funding
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Fundraisers
- Sponsorships
- University Funding
- GI Bill
- Board of Regents
- Foundations
- Grants
- Disability Services (Campus Life)
- NGB

# Research

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is asking that grant applications have some aspect of diversity in order to justify the “Broader Impacts” criterion for funding. Having a disability sports program on campus would allow for a natural fit for robotics (amputees), kinesiology (human movement), therapeutic recreation, exercise and wellness, and other schools within ASU to have a pool of students willing to participate in research, allowing ASU to be a leader in grant monies as well as research practices pertaining to individuals with disabilities. The research opportunities and leverage generated by synergy between the disability sports program and ASU researchers has the future potential to bring in far more money than the programs cost, and to truly create a broader impact. And, many funding programs from the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense target research on disability.

- Research drives most Universities and is the easiest sell if you have your ducks in a row.

# Funding continued...

- Universities want to make money, have new students, and provide opportunities for diversity
- NCAA Title IX on Diversity

# Leveraging

How does your organization fit into the goals and vision of the University?

- How does it provide future funding for the University?

Community involvement- practical examples for Phoenix Area:

- By nature, the sport will be attractive to many injured military veterans. As such, a natural connection to the Pat Tillman Foundation and relationships with Veterans Center.
- USA Basketball making itself a presence in Phoenix Area.
- Phoenix Suns and Mercury relationships (already with current wheelchair teams).
- Banner Hospital relationship with Phoenix teams.

# Leveraging Continued...

- Collaboration with Ability360 - only two miles west of ASU's Tempe campus, provides a world class training facility or competition venue for these new ASU teams (for immediate facility necessities).
  - Partnership with Ability360 enhances the bond between ASU and the community as well and creates leveraged opportunities for future funding from Spofit's sponsor, Virginia Piper Foundation.
  - Ability 360 feeder junior teams
- AZ Disabled Sports – which provides opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities as well as physical disabilities and supports children's sports- is a natural partner of ASU disability athletics.
- Spinal Cord Injury Association and ABIL (Center for Independent Living)- promoters of sport for persons with disabilities.
- Veterans, and military programs committed to sending veterans to school to Universities which support disabled veterans.

# **Budgeting- \$83, 874 +Campus Rec**

**Personnel (36K, 3 people)**

**AD/Coaches/Rec Director?**

**Scholarships (0)**

**Tuition waivers**

**Room and Board**

**Chair Equipment (12K)**

**CAF**

**Other**

**Sponsor/deal with wc company**

**Equipment (5K)- a lot of this is start up**

**camera, balls, shirts, uniforms, computer, welding, chairs, pump, tubes/tires, etc.**

**Volunteers (1.5K)**

**Travel (27K)- 7 tournaments including nationals- TX, PA, IL, KS, 3 AZ**

**hotels, cars, food, flights**

**Program fees/Registration fees (\$500)**

**Officials (\$500-\$1500)**

# Details

Try to have as many details worked out ahead of time as possible:

- Where practice, how long, how frequently, court costs (if any)
- Hierarchy of your new Department/layout
  - AD? Coach? One person does all? Rec personnel help?
- Can community members also play
- How to transition to college play
- Money
- Department best suited for
- Lay out eligibility for them and how your specific sport works (NGB, season, Paralympic Play, etc.)

# Proposal Items

1. Your Background

2. Current state of sport

- Programs
- How University fits and will be recognized
- Department location proposed
- Money proposed (and if matching)

3. Financial section with how you are going to generate revenue

4. Natural fits and Sponsors

5. Research Connection

6. Organization Overview- how your sport works/functions

# Getting Started

Let's be specific- where are you most interested in starting a program.

- What sport?
- Where are athlete's coming from?
- Who is able to keep the program running?