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WSKW TODAY

—WESTERN SOCIETY FOR KINESIOLOGY AND WELLNESS—

www.wskw.org

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Helen Higgs to give 2012 Keynote Presentation

Whitworth Women's Basketball Coach to speak at the 2012 Conference

WSKW is excited to announce that Dr. Helen Higgs, current Women's Head Basketball Coach and Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance at Whitworth University will give the keynote presentation at the 2012 Annual Conference in Reno, NV.

Through 17 seasons at Whitworth University, Helen Higgs is the winningest and longest serving women's basketball coach in school history. Higgs' teams have consistently battled for conference playoff appearances, have won two conference championships and a conference tournament, placed in the sweet sixteen at the NAIA Division II national championships and advanced to the NCAA Tournament. Higgs has been named Northwest Conference Coach of the Year three times.



Helen Higgs

As a player at the University of Oregon, Higgs started for three years and led the team to a top-ten national ranking. Higgs continued her playing career in Europe, where she helped lead Turnverein Bensburg to an undefeated season and a place in the German Cup finals. As a high school player, Higgs led East Anchorage High School to a state championship in 1980. After leaving Germany, Higgs was an assistant coach at Gonzaga University for two years. While she was there, the Bulldogs won the school's first WCC championship in women's basketball. In 1990, Higgs moved from Gonzaga to perennial national power University of Utah. While Higgs was an assistant with the Utes, Utah was selected to play in the NCAA Tournament twice and played for the WAC championship four times.

Her presentation will focus on advocacy of play, sport, and physical activity in other countries. Most importantly, she will share a compelling perspective that these things are a human right, not a privilege. Consequently, programs and opportunities must be created to promoted play, sport, and fitness worldwide.

Proposal Deadline for 2012 Annual Conference Quickly Approaching

Make Plans Now to Attend the Conference - Submit Proposals by June 15th

Now is the time to start making plans for the 2012 Annual WSKW Conference in Reno, NV. WSKW attracts leading professionals in the fields of kinesiology and wellness. It offers all participants the opportunity to learn about and present scholarship, while developing strong professional relationships in a personal atmosphere. Our host city of Reno, the "Biggest Little City in the World," is known for its temperate climate, entertainment, and fine dining.

57th Annual Conference

October 10-12, 2012

-Harrah's Reno-

Call for Papers
Proposals Due June 15th
Online Submission
www.wskw.org

Historically, the ethos for the WSKW conference has been represented by the phrase, "Where the conferee is the program and mentoring and networking are the foundation." This philosophy has stood for over 50 years. A few additions have been added in recent years providing a variety of opportunities for conferees to engage with their peers. For more information about proposal options, conference registration, and contact information visit www.wskw.org

WSKW Member Spotlight: Larry Bruya

Veteran WSKW Member Still Putting the Best Interests of the Student First

A familiar face to WSKW members attending the annual conference in Reno every year is Washington State University Professor, Larry Bruya. He is hard to miss. A booming voice of enthusiasm, an energetic demeanor, and a personality that promotes collaboration. If you see a group of students congregating in an area, Larry is probably right in the middle.

“Dr. Bruya promotes his students, not himself,” states veteran WSKW member Bob Peavy, “He leads by example, always firm and fair.”

Dr. Bruya is not only a veteran member of WSKW, but also an originator and visionary for the organization. He originated the Monograph Series to recognize young scholars in the Kinesiology and Wellness Profession, spearheaded the creation of poster sessions for undergraduates, and suggested changes in WSKW's Operating Code providing undergraduates the opportunity to join WSKW as members.

“Larry is an 'ideas-man' who is willing to undertake an original project, encourage other professionals to 'jump aboard' to make his ideas happen,” states Peavy, “He has taken students numerous times to present at the Western Society for Kinesiology and Wellness (WSKW) in Reno. He was responsible for redirecting the focus of WSKW so that undergraduate and graduate students could participate and contribute. He reinvigorated the organization because of leadership.”



During his tenure at Washington State University, Dr. Bruya has served as Chair of the Department of Kinesiology and Leisure Studies, and as Associate Dean for the College of Education. In 2000, he received the Presidential Award from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE), a sub-organization of AAHPERD for his commitment to mentoring students.

A nationally recognized author for his books on children's playground safety, Larry is a native of Spokane, Washington. He earned an undergraduate degree in Physical Education and Child Development and a Master's Degree in Physical Education from Eastern Washington University. He completed his Ph.D. in Movement Studies at Purdue University.

Students come back and see him, to share stories of their time with a professor that made a difference. Larry inspired current WSKW member Matt Silvers. “My inspiration is Larry. He is loyal and genuine. He is a guy that really cares,” stated Silvers.

If you are going to Reno this year, Larry will be there leading the charge and building camaraderie. Doing what he does best, mentoring students and making a positive impact on their lives.

The New Journal of Kinesiology and Wellness
-Call for Papers – Coming Soon -
Online Submission Process – www.wskw.org

President's Message

What AAHPERD 2012 Taught us about Professional Development

In my last message I mentioned the 2012 AAHPERD Conference in Boston and the importance of continuing to seek opportunities to learn and grow as a professional. None of us could fathom that a fire and subsequent power outage would cancel the 2012 national conference. For those in attendance it was an experience that unfortunately did not live up to expectations. Two months have passed, refunds have been processed, preparations are being made for the 2013 conference, and it feels like "business as usual." As a professional organization AAHPERD is trying to move forward and forget the scenario ever occurred. Similar to a football team getting beat by forty points, AAHPERD would like to forget the loss and move on to the next game.



While AAHPERD is looking ahead to 2013, I am still not over the loss. Attending a professional conference is an engaging, revitalizing, and social endeavor that empowers, enlightens, and challenges us. I come away from a conference wanting to be a better teacher, a better colleague, and stronger contributor in my field. I gain a sense of urgency to create and accomplish more. AAHPERD 2012 was a missed opportunity and one we will never get back. While it is unproductive to complain or dwell on what happened in Boston or did not happen, the value of professional development becomes very clear when it is taken away.

In sport a common motivational speech by a coach may include the words, "you only have one chance...give it your best." As a player this makes you think about the finality of the moment and how you may never be in this situation again. We are members of a great profession and professional development opportunities come to us on a daily basis. Each opportunity could be the "one chance" you have to positively influence a student, make a new contact, build relationships, share your work, secure a new job, or leave a lasting impression. I encourage you to accept the challenge and take on new professional development opportunities. Don't miss an opportunity to grow in your career and make an impact. Join us this coming October in Reno, Nevada for the 2012 WSKW Conference. I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,



Pete Van Mullem
President, 2012

Accommodations – Harrah's Reno

Call 888-726-6311 to reserve a room using group code SWSK12
Room rate of \$51.00 per room (single or double) plus tax.
(www.harrahreno.com)



For 25 years WCPES/WSKW has been promoting young scholars through the Dr. G. Arthur Broten Young Scholar Program. The program has awarded 79 young scholars since its inception in 1987. All former young scholars are invited back for the 2012 conference. A formal invitation and additional information regarding the celebration have been sent to past award winners.

Young Scholar Celebration ***2012 Annual Conference - Reno NV***

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WSKW Today is written and edited by Pete Van Mullem (Central Washington University). The next edition of WSKW Today will be distributed in August. If you have any comments, stories, or ideas regarding the newsletter or you are interested in filling one of the open officer or central committee representative positions, please feel free to contact Pete Van Mullem at vanmullem.pete@gmail.com