Larry Markle takes on New Role at Eskenazi Health

Larry Markle, former Director of Disability Services, now serves as the Director of the Initiative for Empowerment & Economic Independence (IEEI) at Eskenazi Health in Indianapolis. The IEEI program, according to Larry, “provides full-time, paid internships for Indiana college students with physical disabilities in areas related to the student’s major.” At the close of 2018, IEEI will have provided 44 internship opportunities, this raises the overall total to 72 internships.

With research showing that as high as 50% of college graduates with disabilities are unemployed, Larry and Greg Fehribach, the key figures behind implementing this program, have dedicated themselves to lowering the unemployment rate. Greg Fehribach is a BSU graduate and prominent Indianapolis attorney who has a passion for assisting those with disabilities to obtain experience through internships to have a robust resume and relevant experience upon graduation.

The program began by accepting only Ball State students and expanded to Indianapolis in 2017 and statewide in 2018. Currently, there are students from 12 colleges involved with the future goal of having students from every college in the state. Larry says, “I consider what I am doing now an extension of the work I was doing for eighteen years at Ball State. This is simply the next step – helping to ensure that our highly qualified graduates with physical disabilities find meaningful employment after graduation.”

Larry says, “In addition to facilitating the internship for the student, we provide training for supervisors & staff on working with students with disabilities.” This is not just an internship program, it really is about building the skills, experiences, and networks to succeed after college. This coming year, interns will be paired with senior leaders at Eskenazi Health as part of a mentorship program.

Furthering the success and outreach opportunities of this program, the Lily Endowment gave a gift to Eskenazi Health in honor of Greg. The Gregory S. Fehribach Center will focus on education, outreach, public policy advocacy, and research on topics relating to civic and economic engagement for college graduates with physical disabilities.

If you are interested in this program or would like more information, contact Larry Markle at larry.markle@eskenazihealth.edu.
On July 23, 2018, Courtney Jarrett, formerly the Associate Director of Disability Services, was installed as the new Director of Disability Services. Courtney Jarrett is the third director since the office’s inception in 1973. As the new director, she plans to maintain her level of student contact as building relationships with students and watching students partake in the graduation ceremony is something she looks forward to every year. Having a history in the office, Courtney plans to continue to push for efficiency to better serve the students.

While there is much to look forward to, this promotion is not without its challenges. There are new administrative tasks, meetings, and other responsibilities that come with the job, but Courtney is ready to meet them head-on as a positive opportunity. With the student population increasing by 200 since last fall, the logistics of maintaining student contact and support has been challenging, yet interesting.

Under Courtney’s leadership, Disability Services, even though it’s a small office will continue collaborating and building relationships with on- and off-campus partners, so the level of accessibility and accommodations are to a high standard like they have always been. Emotional support animals and adaptive technology are two fast growing areas in the disability services field. Courtney and the rest of the DS staff will continue with the professional development and other trainings to keep abreast of the emerging topics in order to better serve the BSU community.

The Alliance for Disability Awareness (ADA) is a Ball State student group dedicated to disability education and awareness. This fall semester has been very productive for ADA and they have been meeting twice a month. The Executive Board of ADA for 2018-2019 is as follows:

President – Devin Summan
Vice President – Savannah Bassett
Secretary – Caleb Posey

The Executive Board of ADA has been planning topics and activities for each meeting. This semester they have covered topics like stigma surrounding disability, service animals, and portrayals of Autism in the media. They had an awareness table at the Activity Fair and hosted a booth at SGA’s mental health fair.

They are also lining up other activities for the spring semester. ADA will have various activities during Disability Awareness Month in March. For more information about ADA or to find all scheduled events, find them on Benny Link or check out their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/ADA.
In June, the Cardinal Fury, the Ball State Power Soccer team, won the National Championship for the Champions Conference, the second highest conference in the league. Following this win, Cardinal Fury was promoted to the Premier Conference, the highest level of competitive play. Lexi Heer, Georgana Nichols, Dustin Gilmer, Lizzie Ford, Kelby Smith, and Michael Rodriguez had to fight through quadruple overtime in the semi-finals on their way to an impressive tournament win. Lexi Heer and Lizzie Ford gave some insight into their win and what it is like to play for the Cardinal Fury.

Lizzie Ford was familiar with the sport of power soccer, but did not start playing until her friend, Lexi Heer asked her to join the team. Lexi, now 22, started playing when she was 5 years old. Her mother took her to a call-out meeting. She says ever since then, “I haven’t looked back.” Practicing together as a team was challenging as each member had other obligations as well. There were only about 3 occasions the entire team was able to practice together – making their win even more impressive. Even with the difficult practice schedule and fighting through the tough competition in the national championship, they were able to create a sense of family within the team, something Lizzie said she is thankful for.

Even with winning the national title, Lexi still said her greatest highlight from the year was being able to introduce two new players to the community and sport. Likewise, Lizzie said she enjoyed her experience on the team and “everyone was so welcoming and so great.” Despite the bonding and winning the national championship, currently, there is no active Cardinal Fury team as there are not enough players. The team members still keep in contact and try to see each other when they have time in their busy schedules.

Lizzie is currently unsure of her future in power soccer as she would have to commute to Indianapolis to join a team. Lexi on the other hand, is currently playing for the reigning champions of the Premier Conference, RHI Sudden Impact.

**Bush Scholarship Recipients**

Disability Services would like to acknowledge and congratulate the 2018-2019 recipients of the Myrna Bush Scholarship.

A 1928 graduate of Ball State, Myrna Bush endowed funds to the university to support students with visual impairments. Recipients of the award were selected based on a combination of their academic achievement and their involvement on campus. This year two students received the Myrna Bush Scholarship.

Award Recipients:
Alexis Westerfield: Sophomore, Social Work
Sarah Meyer: Graduate Student, Counseling Psychology

Congratulations to each of this year’s recipients.

**Disability Services Awards Program: April 2, 2019**

The 2019 Disability Services awards program is scheduled for 3pm on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, in Cardinal Hall B of the L.A. Pittenger Student Center. Please join us as we recognize outstanding students and an alumnus with a disability, and express thanks to faculty and staff for promoting access at Ball State.
Don't forget BSU's Disability Services in your giving plans.

Funds donated are used for resources and equipment to enhance campus accessibility.

All Indiana taxpayers' donations to BSU Foundation - 8603 are a 50 percent tax credit (a $100 gift costs only $50)!

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<th>The DS Communique is published once a semester by the Office of Disability Services for the students, faculty, alumni, staff, and friends of Ball State University.</th>
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If you are a BSU/DS alumni and have news you would like to share with the readers of this newsletter, please drop us a line or two about anything you'd like us to know, such as accomplishments, events, or milestones. Please notify us about a change in address as well.

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