Professional Development Programs

Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Studies
Indiana University

The Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Studies at Indiana University strives to provide its graduate students with the academic knowledge and skills necessary for successful careers in this field. In addition, we also realize the importance of other professional development opportunities as they impact the quality and success of our graduates as practitioners. One of the most unique opportunities afforded to our students is the Department’s affiliation with and management of a number of diverse centers, institutes, and programs involved with the delivery of leisure activities.

- **Bradford Woods Outdoor Education and Camping Center** – a state-of-the-art 2,300 acre leadership development center providing residential outdoor education, and camping programs. Also conducts professional development courses, conferences, and retreats.
- **Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands** – a center in park management, public resource policy and environmental ethics. Eppley works very closely with the National Park Service.
- **Executive Development Program** – a source of advance education, providing recreation and park professionals with increased management, administrative, and leadership skills through workshops and seminars.
- **Great Lakes Park Training Institute** – offers continuing education opportunities for park and recreation professional through a variety of training sessions.
- **Institute for Outdoor Leadership and Education** – promotes and provides quality programming in a global society through a commitment to the professional development of outdoor educators and instructors.
- **Leisure Research Institute** – conducts and promotes scholarly research in leisure behavior; provides research and education for Indiana’s tourist industry. LRI has granted funds over $19,900 per semester to both students and faculty to continue their research.
- **National Center on Accessibility** – national resource center for training public and natural resource and recreation organizations in implementing and facilitating the legislative mandate of Congress and in meeting in other recreation service needs of public agencies through research and technical assistance.

There are opportunities within all of these centers, institutes, and programs for graduate student involvement. Additionally, because of the Department’s excellent relationship and reputation with various local, county, state, and Federal Park and Recreation Organizations and Facilities in the area, both volunteer and paid opportunities are available for students with these agencies as well.