

Position Statement: John Borton

I am interested in being considered for one of the WEA Board of Trustee, 3-year positions available beginning in 2007. I have been a WEA member for two years. I recently completed a WEA-PSC course in the Olympics and am now a WEA certified Outdoor Leader and LNT Master Educator. I intend to continue my WEA affiliation and complete my apprenticeship to become a WEA Instructor within the next 12 months.

Although I am relatively new to the WEA, I have worked in the field of outdoor recreation/education for many years. I began as a back packing counselor for a camp in Estes Park Colorado while completing my undergraduate studies in Social Studies Education. I continued my interest in the various outdoor fields and have lead and followed on numerous personal trips throughout North America including multi-day backpack, sea kayak, mountain bike, sailing and back-country ski trips. During the past 20 years, I have co-lead numerous 2-10 day trips for the CSU-Pueblo, Experiential Learning Center and Outdoor Program, including trips in all seasons in Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming and Washington. During the past two years, I have worked as an adjunct faculty member in the Outdoor Recreation department, co-leading 2 trips per year which are part of the CSU-Pueblo WEA certification program.

In addition to my experience as an outdoor leader, I have 23 years of experience as a full-time faculty member in the Computer Information Systems field, including 11 years as a department chair. This experience, though not directly related to outdoor education, has provided me with a strong background in and understanding of the administrative requirements of a member of the Board of Trustees.

I recently reduced by faculty position to ½ time allowing me more time to work with the University Outdoor Recreation program, the Experiential Learning Center and with WEA. Besides being very committed to the past and current work of the WEA in developing and certifying the University-grown outdoor leaders of today and tomorrow, I believe there is an opportunity for the WEA to expand it's reach beyond colleges and universities. Since we are currently the only certifying body of outdoor leaders in the country, I believe we could offer our program to a much broader range of constituents, benefiting both the outdoor industry and the WEA. It seems to me that anyone who currently has a 2- or 4-year degree could be eligible to complete a NSP or PSC and be certified by the WEA as an outdoor leader. With appropriate marketing such a program could rapidly grow the number of individuals and organizations interested in becoming members of the WEA.

In addition to my ideas for expanding the reach of WEA, I believe that the combination of my previous administrative experience and potentially new and different ideas could be a great benefit to the WEA. Being a member of the WEA Board also moves me one step closer of achieving my next occupational goal in life of becoming a full-time outdoor educator. One of my favorite quotes says simply that "it is never too late to be what you might have been". After completing my undergraduate degree I made a conscience decision to not pursue outdoor education/recreation as my profession. My reasons at the time were purely monetary. My passion for leading others in the outdoors has not diminished even as the gray hairs have slowly crept onto my head. I see becoming a member of the Board of Trustees for WEA is a way to make a difference in a field that although I may be a new-comer in on one level has been a life-long passion on another.

Biographical Information

Education

Ph.D. Business Administration, Information Systems major

M. S. Research and Statistical Methodology

Emphasis: College Student Personnel Administration

B.A. Education - Social Studies

Related Work Experience

Colorado State University - Pueblo

- Professor of Computer Information Systems, 1983-present
 - Department Chair, 1993 – July 2006
 - ½ time position beginning July 2006
- Adjunct Faculty - Outdoor Recreation Program, 2004-present
- Volunteer Trip Leader - Experiential Learning Center/Outdoor Program, 1984-present
 - Lead and co-lead University students on numerous wilderness backpack, canyoneering, mountain bike, and back-country ski trips in Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming and Washington

Cheley Colorado Camps, Estes Park, Colorado

- Backpacking Counselor – 3 summers during undergraduate college program

Related Certifications

- WEA Certified Outdoor Leader, July 2006 –
- Leave No Trace Master Educator, July 2006 -
- Wilderness First Responder, March 2006 -
- Wilderness First Aid, March 2005 -
- CPR Certified, March 2005 -

Related Presentations

- Workshop -Sea Kayak Navigation and Trip Planning, Association of Experiential Education National Conference, Tucson, AZ, November 2005.
- Sea Kayak Navigation, Wilderness Education Association National Conference, Estes Park, CO, February 2005.

Memberships

- Wilderness Education Association, 2005 – present
- Association of Experiential Education, 2004 - present