

New: The 2010 NIRSA State of Florida Summit hosted by FAU a huge success

On Friday, June 25, 2010, Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton hosted the 2010 NIRSA State of Florida Summit. More than 130 professionals and students from over 20 colleges and universities in the state attended the event filled with workshops, roundtable discussions and networking opportunities.

South Florida was a perfect location for this year's summit with the recent opening of the FAU Recreation & Fitness Center Expansion. Prior to the summit, many NIRSA professionals took advantage of the opportunity to tour several new and/or award winning facilities in South Florida: Staff at the University of Miami's Patti and Alan Herbert Wellness Center, Florida International University's Recreation Center, and Nova Southeastern University's RecPlex provided tours to numerous summit attendees.



"It was an absolute pleasure to host such an amazing event for an outstanding group of folks," said Eric Hawkes, Director of Campus Recreation at Florida Atlantic University. Eric added, "The energy, enthusiasm and different perspectives that professionals and students bring to the summit facilitate an incredible learning opportunity for everyone. It was exciting to see so many people from all over Florida make the trip to FAU."

In addition to the educational opportunities, the FAU Recreation & Fitness Center was a highlight of the summit. The state-of-the-art facility serves as a cornerstone for student life, student engagement and healthy lifestyles at FAU. Its creative design, themed signage and use of technology make it one of the most popular facilities on-campus.

"At each roundtable, I learned something that I could use as the director on my campus," said David Bowles, Director of

Recreational Sports at the University of Florida. Bowles expressed his enthusiasm for the summit and its future: "It was great to see FAU's young staff take the lead with the summit. In addition, FAU's beautiful new recreation center provided an excellent location for the gathering. I'm sure the energy from this year's summit will ensure continued success for our future gatherings."

Attendees also got a sneak preview of Insight Production's film documentary about collegiate recreational sports. NIRSA is working with Insights to complete the video production for release to PBS television stations nationwide in fall 2010.

The significant increase in attendees at this year's summit has transitioned the event from a small informal gathering to a high-quality professional development experience. Four institutions have expressed interest in hosting the 2011 summit. Potential sites include Florida A&M University, Nova Southeastern University, the University of Central Florida and the University of West Florida.

The event was free for attendees, thanks to support from Borelli + Partners—architects of the FAU Recreation & Fitness Center.

