

Dear alumni and friends,

On behalf of the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration it is my pleasure to update you on recent departmental happenings and to invite you to join us in celebrating the department's 50th Anniversary.

On April 7, 2017, we hosted our annual Professional Development Conference. This year we focused on skills students need to have as they transition from classrooms to professional practice. We called the conference Practice to Profession #Adulting. It was well attended and we greatly appreciate all the alumni and friends who presented sessions and talked with our students about their experiences. If you'd like to learn more about the conference, please visit <http://www.wiu.edu/coehs/rpta/pdc.php>



Next year's Professional Development Conference is going to be extremely special. It will serve as the culmination of our year long 50th Anniversary celebrations. Throughout the fall and spring we will be hosting a variety of activities and events. We sincerely hope you will consider joining us at as many as you can.



As part of our 50th celebration, the department is going to participate in the Western Challenge. For those of you who don't know, Western Challenge is a one-day online giving campaign that will take place on April 24. Our goal is to raise \$1,500 so that we can purchase a Rocky Dog statue on behalf of RPTA and the Horn Field Campus (http://www.wiu.edu/vpaps/rocky_on_parade/).

Our current faculty has issued the following Western Challenge to our alumni and students...

If alumni raise \$500 and the current students raise \$500, the RPTA faculty will give \$500. As one of the alumni said, "we're all going to throw in some bones to get a dog". This statue will be an enduring reminder of the importance of RPTA and Horn Field Campus to Western Illinois

University. Our dog will appear in the coffee table book being made to commemorate the Rockies found throughout Macomb, and each year during the Rocky Quest activities, participants will visit the Horn Field Campus to see our dog. Any additional monies we raise on April 24 will go toward RPTA scholarships.

If you're willing to participate in the challenge, please visit the Western Challenge website on April 24. You'll be able to watch real-time updates and celebrate with us as we reach our goal.

<http://bit.ly/westernchallenge17>

Please make sure to save the dates for our 50th Celebration events. We'll be providing more information as we get closer, but we'd love to see you at all of these. We'd also appreciate you encouraging other RPTA alumni to update their records so that we can invite them to next year's 50th Celebration. They can do so at <http://www.wiu.edu/alumni/updates/>

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for our department. We hope to continue the proud traditions you've helped us develop into the next 50 years!

Sincerely,

Dan

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50th Celebration Activities

September 23, 2017	Lodge & Libations	Horn Field Campus, Macomb
September 30, 2017	Homecoming Tailgate	Q-Lot, Macomb
January 19, 2018	Alumni & Friends Gathering	IPRA/IAPD Conference, Chicago
January 25, 2018	Summer Camp Job Fair	University Union, Macomb
April 13, 2018	Professional Development Conference/50 th Celebration	University Union, Macomb