

## R E S O L U T I O N

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# 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Emerging Recreational Sports Leaders (ERSL) Conference

**Whereas**, in 1992, the office of intramural sports at the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale established the first Emerging Recreational Sports Leaders Conference (ERSL) — then called the Emerging Minority Leaders Workshop—to encourage a strong future of leadership for minority students in the field of collegiate recreation, and

**Whereas**, ERS� held its first conference at Dillard University in New Orleans—the site of NIRSA’s founding meeting 42 years prior—with 22 students and 16 professionals from across the United States, for the purpose of supporting the next generation of emerging leaders, fostering mentoring opportunities with current professionals in the field, encouraging diversity in the profession, and renewing the association’s relations with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and

**Whereas**, the ERS� Conference has since grown to regularly exceed 150 attendees and continually fosters a supportive atmosphere where educational presentations sit alongside experiential learning opportunities, and celebrates those who advance innovative strategies to improve opportunities for underrepresented groups in campus recreation through the Herman Williams Founders Outstanding Service Award, and

**Whereas**, NIRSA: Leaders in Collegiate Recreation has a vision to transform lives and inspire the development of healthy communities worldwide, and recognizes the importance of diverse voices and inclusive practices in make this vision an authentic reality,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NIRSA hereby recognizes the contributions of the Emerging Recreational Sports Leaders Conference to the association and the profession of collegiate recreation and commends this event for its significant role in encouraging diversity in our association in an effort to better reflect the populations and demographics that NIRSA members serve.

*Adopted by the Board of Directors  
NIRSA: Leaders in Collegiate Recreation  
January 18, 2017 – Corvallis, Oregon*

