Dr. Christopher R. Edginton

Dr. Christopher R. Edginton is a Professor of Leisure Youth and Human Services in the Department of Health, Recreation, and Community Services at the University of Northern Iowa. In recent years, Dr. Edginton served as the R. J. McElroy Professor of Youth Leadership Studies. Established in 1989 by the R. J. McElroy Trust, this endowed professorship seeks to enhance the youth leadership studies program at the University of Northern Iowa as well as improve the quality of youth leadership programs throughout the United States.

Dr. Edginton served as the Director of the School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services from 1991-2010. From 2004-2014 he served as the Secretary-General of the World Leisure Organization. Dr. Edginton is the founder of Camp Adventure Child and Youth Services, an award-winning services learning program operating in over 20 countries and serving 500,000 children and youth on an average basis. He is a member of the Academy of Leisure Sciences, American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, the American Leisure Academy, North American Society of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance and The World Leisure Academy.

Awards received by Dr. Edginton include: Distinguished Service Award & Order of the Eagle Exemplar, United States Sports Academy; Distinguished Service Award, World Leisure Organization; Legend in Parks and Recreation, American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration; Regents Award for Faculty Excellence, State of Iowa Board of Regents; Charles K. Brightbill Alumnus Award, University of Illinois; R. Tait McKinzie Award, American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance; Distinguished Scholar Award, International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance; Honor Award, American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance; National Literary Award, National Recreation and Park Association; J.B. Nash Scholar Award, American Association for Leisure and Recreation; Honor Award, American Association for Leisure and Recreation; Distinguished Fellow Award, Society of Park and Recreation Educators.

In regard to scholarship and research, Dr. Edginton has author over 350 articles and 31 text books. Many of his textbooks are adopted at the leading universities throughout the United States and in other countries (including some textbooks translated into different languages). Dr. Edginton has received $85 million in grants and contracts, over $7 million in donations and provided oversight to development of the Wellness/Recreation Center and the Human Performance Center.

Dr. Edginton has supervised countless graduate students and provided them with numerous leadership position at the University of Northern Iowa (e.g., Institute for Youth Leaders, Camp Adventure) and throughout the world when he was Secretary-General of the World Leisure Organization. From 2014-2018 graduate students in the Institute for Youth Leaders published 15 peer reviewed journal articles in top-notch journals in the field of leisure, youth, and human services (e.g., *Annals of Leisure Research*). As Director of the School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, and throughout his career, Dr. Edginton had a “student-first” motto and constantly directed faculty to focus their most important energies toward undergraduate and graduate students. I have witnessed, firsthand, many of his former student share that he thought he was the most amazing professor they have ever met and how his mentorship help create a pathway toward a wonderful career.

Rodney. B. Dieser, Ph.D. CTRS LMHC

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