

Benito A. Telesca

432.837.8424 Office

[bat21id@sulross.edu](mailto:bat21id@sulross.edu)

## EDUCATION

**Master of Education, Sport & Recreation Management**, 1998 Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, TX  
**Bachelor of Science, Physical Education**, 1994 Hunter College, New York City, NY

Attended: Panama Canal College, Republic of Panama, September 1988 through June 1989

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Vice President for Student Affairs** Sul Ross State University November 2021- Current

Support of the educational mission of the University and serve as the chief student affairs officer. Provide institutional leadership for a variety of student development services and programs. Responsible for the development and implementation of the Division's strategic plan and has direct oversight of the following departments: Counseling & Accessibility Services, Recreational Programs, Student Support Services, Student Health Services, Residence Life, Campus Activities, University Center, Department of Public Safety, Dean of Students/Title IX Coordinator, Civic Engagement & Student Assistance, Career & Testing Services. Work collaboratively across divisions to assist the university community in achieving strategic initiatives related to creating engagement and belonging on campus.

- Serve as a member of the senior leadership team and assist the President in strategic planning, decision making, crisis management, and communication
- Provide leadership and direction to staff within the Division to foster an atmosphere that supports student retention and success, foster the holistic development of the student
- Developed and implemented the Division's Strategic Plan and assessment procedures.
- Provide institutional responses to compliance elements from TSUS, DOE, and other regulatory elements, ensure compliance with federal and state legal and regulatory requirements as they relate to student life, including but not limited to Title IX, WAVA, FERPA, Sexual Assault Prevention Act, Drug-Free Campus Act.
- Prepare and manage the divisional budget, including the approval of all departmental budgets. Oversee the Student Service Fee process.
- Coordinate crisis response for the University and the Student Affairs Division and assure Student Affairs representation on the Emergency Management Team.
- Oversee the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT)
- Oversee the Student Affairs assessment effort and serve as divisional liaison to accreditation efforts

- Oversee the recruitment, orientation, development, and evaluation of Student Affairs staff
- Participate in the life of the College as a member of the senior leadership through attendance at major College events, such as Orientation, Family and Friends Weekend, Admission Showcases, Convocation and Commencement
- Work closely with the Institutional Advancement Division to develop and implement philanthropic initiatives pertaining especially to Student Affairs
- Represent the Division on University committees and task forces as needed
- Directly supervise the Dean of Students and departmental Directors within Student Affairs.
- Advise the Student Government Association and Student Activities Board.
- Work collaboratively with deans, chairs, faculty, and other divisions on student issues.
- Laisse with the Alpine community and outside groups for mutually beneficial relationships.

**Interim Dean of Students/Special Assistant to the President** Sul Ross State University August 2021-November 2021

Evaluate Student Life processes and identify opportunities for enhancing engagement and student services. Assume the responsibilities of the Dean of Students. Manage the residential living staffing turnover. Provide guidance to the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT), serve as a liaison between Student Government and the administration. Work with the Vice President for Finance on billing and residence life issues. Oversee Campus Activities, Counseling & Accessibility Services, Student Health Services, Student Government, Recreational Programs, University Center, and Career and Testing center, and the disciplinary processes. Serve as a member of the president's cabinet.

**Assistant Director for Campus Recreation, Facilities and Member Services**, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas April 2017- August 2021

Provided vision, strategic planning, and development of comprehensive programs/services/events to meet the needs of the university and the surrounding community. Responsible for recruiting and training paraprofessional staff, generating varied revenue streams, developing an auditable budget system, and conducting program evaluations. Manage the Campus recreation Recreational Center, natatorium, and the HPE Multi-Purpose Center facility during campus recreation departments designated hours. Develop standard operating guidelines for each facility and provided risk management assessments. Provide a deferred maintenance schedule for buildings and equipment Mentor the Operation Managers and graduate assistants on professionalism in the field of recreation and beyond. Serve as adjunct academic faculty and faculty advisor for multiple sport clubs. Create training modules for all departmental staff. Move face-to-face trainings to online only modalities so service could continue without interruption. Work with CDC consultants to insure safety of facility, operations and staff. Serve as lead in emergency shelter protocol enactment. Facilitate MOU with outside institution in the event of crisis management. Serve as the chair of the Division of Student Affairs' Inclusion and Multicultural Competence Committee, University Affairs Transformational Experiences Committee, Training & Development Committee, Student Travel Authorization Committee, Safety Training Committee, Student Discipline Appeals/Behavioral Work Team, Chair Sustainability

Committee, Orientation Advisory Board member. Family Weekend Planning Committee member. Helped to form the Environmental Service Fee committee.

**General Manager, The Core** (Concho Resources), Midland, Texas September 2015- April 2017

Manage and direct all operations, staffing, revenue and expense goals of a corporate wellness program. Act as a direct liaison between Plus One and the client. Implement and follow all agreed policies and procedures. Ensure staff is providing gold-standard customer service and quality programming to the membership. Present alternative programming to employees to improve their wellbeing and sense of belonging to Concho. Present monthly educational seminars on wellness and health. Manage the class programming offerings and schedules. Coordinate regular trainings for personal training staff and instructors. Oversee and liaised construction and startup of entire operation including design, hiring, implementation protocols.

**Associate Activities Minister**, First Baptist Church, Midland, Texas October 2011- September 2015

Provide leadership and guidance to the programming element of the newly renovated Activities Ministries Building. Build a comprehensive wellness and fitness component and adult outreach to cater to the specific mission of the church and community. Provide guidance for: open recreation, the creation of a club sports/social interest group program, outdoor adventure trips, and youth camps and retreats and special events. Provide wellness coaching services. Collaborate with facilities staff and cross-campus entities within the organization to produce successful programs. Collaborate with local municipal entities to assist in the provision of services. Collaborate with food services to insure the proper delivery of service to the public in the diner facility. Director of FBC Soccer Camps. Lead international mission teams (Mexico, Portugal, Brazil, Kenya etc.) to execute recreational and sports-oriented outreach programs and building projects. Liaise with government entities to resolve possible issues with mission teams. Generate seed funding for specific ministry goals and support recurring events. Assist with risk management of the programmatic elements and facilities. Assist in the maintenance and enforce policy for fleet vehicles. Provide preventive maintenance for fitness facility. Serve as an emergency shelter site facilitator and crisis management liaison.

**Superintendent of Recreation for The City of Midland/Director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center**, Midland, Texas July 2008-October 2011

Provide the City of Midland 136,000 residents with a comprehensive approach to wellness and recreational programs. Manage operations of multiple city pools and programs in city parks. Launched city-wide wellness initiative. Maintain and expanded operations and programming of community center. Represent the city in statewide campaigns and initiatives such as the Texas Round-up and the Active Texas Summit. Collaborate with non-profit agencies, sports associations and educational agencies to deliver quality programs to the community. Solicit regional, state, and national events and competitions to improve local revenue streams. Provide leadership to community committees to provide large-scale events like the movies in the parks, music festivals and Christmas Parade. Establish proper working relationships with community groups to facilitate delivery of services. Maintain budgetary liabilities to a minimum and seek improved methods and cost-savings measures in service and operation delivery. Serve as spokesperson for the department and conduct regular media interviews. Chair the educational committee for the Texas Recreation and Parks Society Tri-Region Institute for recreational professionals. Provide regular risk-management audits of venues and programs. Oversee renovation of Martin Luther

King Jr. Community Center, and assist in cost-savings solutions to maintain city within budget parameters, without sacrificing the needs of the community. Oversee the hiring and training of paraprofessional staff that operate city pools and provide the programming to the public. Prepare a variety of city-owned venues for large concerts and other special events. Create partnerships with national entities for facilities renovations for mutually beneficial goals. Teach a variety of fitness classes (yoga, boot camps, triathlon training, etc.), community enrichment workshops to compliment wellness wheel model. Collaborated with city council members, the Mayor, Parks and Recreation Commission, and divisional leaders to insure superior delivery of services. Recruit stakeholders and facilitate the establishment and operation of the Mayors' Fitness Council. Tall City Blues Music Festival executive committee member.

**Assistant Director for Campus Recreational Services and Risk Management**, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV January 2007- July 2008

Provide leadership and guidance to the programming element of the newly constructed Student Recreation & Wellness Center. Oversee the coordinators for: intramural programming, open recreation, club sports program, outdoor adventure clinics/ trips, and youth camps and special events. Appraise the department of risk-management protocols and on-going assessments. Collaborate with facilities staff and cross-campus entities to produce successful programs. Seek out non-university entities to create a more entrepreneurial approach and support to recreational programming. Provide guidance to the department in the pursuit of a congruent approach to the Student Life division's co-curricular agenda method of reporting and assessing learning outcomes. Assist departmental staff in group trainings and customer service. Serve on the Student Recreation and Wellness Planning Committee, Professional Training Committee, and Rebel Wellness Committee. Facilitate Fish Philosophy training for our departmental student staff. Revise risk management procedures for department and create a club sport operating manual. Taught triathlon training course and indoor cycling, outdoor education clinics in rock climbing, canyoneering, ice climbing, kayaking, desert survival skills, and mountain biking. Provide diversity and LGBT training for student staff. Instituted theoretical model applications to programmatic elements.

**Manager of the Arrillaga Center for Sport and Recreation/Coordinator of Recreational Facilities**, Stanford University, Stanford, CA June 2006 - January 2007

Create a facilities operational plan for the restructured division. Provide vision and support for expansion as well as operate campus recreational and wellness facilities. Provide leadership and guidance to a professional staff. Manage various venues for varsity athletics, physical education classes, club sports, intramurals, outdoor recreation, informal recreation, outside special events. Represent the division on campus-wide committees and expand awareness throughout campus. Teach indoor cycling classes, teambuilding seminars, serve as point in dealing with contractors, architects and procurement. Insuring that the division complies with university policies and NCAA Division 1 and PAC-10 policies in regards to athletics. Assist in coordinating large scale events such as FINA Masters World Swimming Championships and Bank of The West Tennis Invitational Tournament. Advise the Director on personnel and programming. Served on Student Housing improvement committee and led the physical assessment survey.

**Director of Recreational Programs**, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX February 2002 – June 2006

Provided vision, strategic planning, and development of comprehensive programs/services/events to meet the needs of the university and the surrounding community. Responsible for recruiting and training paraprofessional staff, generating varied revenue streams, developing an auditable budget system, and conducting program evaluations. Manage the Graves-Pierce Recreational Center, natatorium, and the Pete P. Gallego Multi-Purpose Center facility and event operations. Developed a broad intramural program, outdoor recreation program, employee wellness program, and wellness lecture series. Developed standard operating guidelines for each facility and provided risk management assessments. Designed and promoted summer camp programs and other methods of funding sport clubs/activities/events. Pursued professional athletic teams to use our facilities for mutually beneficial goals. Published monthly newsletter. Provide guidance to departments seeking student oriented outdoor expeditions. Served as advisor/coach for several student organizations like the SRSU Cheer Squad and soccer club. Assisted with game-day management of NCAA Division III program as needed. Facilitate compliance with university policy and state regulations. Presented regularly on wellness topics to civic groups such as Lions Club, Kiwanis, Pilots Club. Served as First Year Experience instructor/facilitator. Partnered with National Hispanic Institute in providing training for emerging leaders and college preparation. Assisted in coordinating large-scale concert/fundraising event (NPR-Willie Nelson Event). Assisted in facilitating outdoor classroom experiences on and off campus.

**Director of Recreational Sports & Facilities & Assistant Athletic Director**, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO August 1998 - February 2002

Job duties included the administration of a 35-sport intramural program, a 29-sport club program and fitness center. Recruited and trained paraprofessional staff and officials for leagues. Developed standard operating procedures manual for both club sport and intramural programs as well as creating websites for the two areas. Other duties included overseeing the summer camp program, all athletic facilities, and field management. Coached and administered the operations of the Women's Soccer Club and Mines Cycling Club. Was solely responsible for the budgets of the Intramural and Club Sport Programs, Athletic Department inventories, staff payroll, and fundraising for club sport programs. Served as Adjunct Instructor for Physical Activities and Wellness Department including special topic sessions. Courses taught included: Beginning Tennis, Fitness Assessment, Jogging, and Racquetball. Taught American Heart Association CPR courses to staff and students. Developed and promoted leisure activities and Healthy Living Lecture Series for Mines community. Served as member of management team for the 16-sport NCAA Division II Athletic Department. Chaired search committees and completed special assignments as needed. Provided guidance and generated student support for passage of referendum for construction of new student recreation center. Provided maintenance plan for Brooks Field Stadium as well as all practice fields and intramural fields to maximize use by community and university organizations. Established relationship with professional sport franchises (Denver Broncos, Colorado Rapids, Mile High Mustangs) for utilization of venues for mutually beneficial objectives.

**Assistant Director of Campus Recreation and Wellness**, McMurry University, Abilene, TX August 1997 - August 1998

Duties included: directing the daily operations of the McMurry University Wellness Center; programming of activities and lecture series; training and supervision of staff; budgeting for staff and program; conducting individual fitness assessments and personalized fitness training providing maintenance for all equipment. Also implemented wellness programs for the campus and university

community by coordinating with food services, student services, campus ministries, campus counseling, and outside health agencies. Assisted with the intramural program by officiating and aiding in officials' training and supervision. Coached and administered the operations of the McMurry University Men's Soccer Club. Provided pre-season and post-season conditioning programs for varsity athletes. Assisted with Cross-Country and Track and Field Programs recruiting. Served as Adjunct Instructor for Physical Education Department. Courses taught included: Beginning Swimming, Beginning Tennis, Racquetball, and Weight-Training.

**Facility Coordinator**, University of Texas at Houston Health Science Center - Recreation Center, Houston, TX May 1997 - August 1997

Job duties included management of the daily operations of the recreation center. Hiring, training of personnel, scheduling, and evaluating front desk workers and housekeeping personnel. Assisted with departmental policies, procedures and payroll. Supervise the execution of facility and equipment maintenance, and contract services. Supervised field rental operations for revenue generation and updated procedures as needed. Taught CPR certification classes. Mediated and resolved member concerns and grievances. Provide a comprehensive lecture series from health and wellness professionals to address the needs of the medical professionals to provide them with additional tools to serve themselves and the community.

**Recreational Sports and Facility Coordinator/Intern**, University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center Recreation Center, Houston, TX July 1996 - May 1997

Responsibilities included planning and conducting all sports leagues. Scope of this position included conducting captains' meetings, developing league schedules, activity supervision, developing officials training and scheduling. Facility operation responsibility included front desk operations, membership sales, recording facility usage, and on-call rotation for weekend supervision. Assisted with field preparation for activities and rental contracts.

**Coordinator of Club Sports, Physical Education Activities Program Adjunct Instructor**, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, TX August 1994 - July 1996

Duties included the administration of the Club Sport programs: from training and event scheduling to promotion and event organization. Developed operational manual for all sport clubs. Provided fund raising operations for all clubs. Served as Director for HSU's Homecoming Fun Run and Mile Walk and Annual Spring Classic Road Race. Served as coach to the crosscountry and cycling club teams. Responsible for conducting the following courses: Strength and Flexibility, Cycling, Advanced Swimming and Lifeguard Training, Assessment and Conditioning, Beginning Swimming, Jogging, Intermediate Tennis, Beginning Tennis, Racquetball, and Gymnastics. Assisted in the delivery of intramural programming. Served on the judicial panel resolving student concerns and discipline. Served as a member of the Behavior intervention team.

**On-Site Supervisor, Brookdale Recreational Facility**, Hunter College, New York City, NY August 1991 - June 1994

Duties included the supervision, maintenance and programming of facilities that included: indoor swimming pool complex, tennis courts, basketball gym, bowling alley, dance studio, weight room and game room. Trained and supervised facility staff and aerobics instructors. Conducted all intramural

sports leagues and officials training clinics, special events, rentals, and processed employee payroll. Worked with the National Youth Sports Camp training counselors and lifeguards. Worked as volunteer with Project Happy for handicapped children. Administered facility rentals and special events. Taught fitness and wellness clinics and classes for students and community. Partnered with Student Activities Programming Board to provide option and programming to residence halls and Brookdale campus.

**Personal Trainer**, The Hanson System, New York City, NY October 1991-August 1994

Performed fitness assessments and personalized fitness plans for clients. Performed one-on-one training sessions for exclusive clientele. Aid in the maintenance and operation of a high-end boutique fitness establishment. Managed personal training staff and served as a liaison for media relations. Identify and recruit personal training staff to meet expectations of the clientele. Created outreach opportunities for staff and clients in the New York City area.

**Field & Facility Maintenance and Programming**, Morale Welfare & Recreation, Ft. Clayton, Panama October 1987-August 1989

Performed various duties in meeting the mission of MWR. Maintained rental fleet of sailboats, scuba equipment and other technical equipment and retail operations. Assisted with facility maintenance such as tennis court re-surfacing, competition and practice field maintenance, aquatic venue maintenance. Assisted with promotions and volunteer recruitment for children's programs.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- Association of College and University Housing Officers International
- Association for Student Conduct Administration
- National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association member
- Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education member
- Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators member
- National Association of Student Personnel Administrators

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Telesca, B." Verbal Judo: The combination of the Communication & Art of Self-Defense" University Affairs Conference, and Common Trainings, Stephen F. Austin State University 2020

Telesca, B." Beyond Program Areas: How Departmental Committees Create a Culture of Collaboration" Virtual Presentation 2020 Telesca, B." Building a Culture of Student Development for Your Staff" National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association Regional Conference, Tulsa, OK 2019

Telesca, B." Outdoor Fitness Environments: Proposing, Building, and Programming them" National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association Regional Conference, College Station, TX 2018

Telesca, B. "Facilities: leading from the second chair" National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association Regional Conference, Lubbock Texas 2017

Telesca, B. "Wellness & Fitness as Ministry" Built to Last Conference, Midland, TX 2014

Telesca, B. "Risk Management for Recreational Programs & Special Events" Texas Recreation And Parks Society Conference, Midland, TX 2010

Telesca, B., Williams, E. "Collegiate Recreation Programs and Regional Community Identity" National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association National Conference, Louisville, KY, 2006

Telesca, B. "Small Institution Programming Problems and Solutions" Texas Association of College and University Personnel Administrators State Conference, South Padre Island, TX 2003

Telesca, B. "Staying Afloat with Sport Clubs" National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association Region IV Lead-On Workshop, Abilene, TX, February 2003

Telesca, B. "Exercise and the senior citizen" National Association for Retired Federal Employees, Houston, TX, June 1997

Telesca, B. "Sport Clubs and Special Events" National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association Emerging Minority Leaders Workshop Region IV, San Marcos, TX February 1996

Telesca, B. "Exercise and Stress Management" Hardin-Simmons University Student Workshop, Abilene, TX 1996

Telesca, B., Shaul, G. "Workaholism and the Graduate Assistant" National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association Region IV Lead-On Workshop, Abilene, TX 1995

Telesca, B. "Exercise and the nutritional habits of students" Student Workshop, Hunter College Brookdale Campus, New York City, NY 1994

## **OTHER**

-Fluent in Spanish, written and spoken

-Provide professional consulting support to recreational professionals, universities, municipalities and churches in engagement and facilities

-American Red Cross CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer Instructor -Wilderness Medicine Institute Wilderness First Responder Certification

-Tabata Boot Camp Certified Instructor

-American Aerobics Association International Yoga Instructor

-American Sports & Fitness Association Master Personal Trainer Certification

-American Sports & Fitness Association Group Fitness/Boot Camp Instructor Certification -American Sports & Fitness Association Sports Nutritionist Certification



-Aerobics and Fitness Association of America Certified Resistance Training Specialist

-National Association of Underwater Instructors (Open Water SCUBA Diving)

#### Certification

-Nautilus Institute Schwinn Indoor Cycling Program Instructor

-White-Water Paddle Raft Guide

-Leave No Trace Trainer

-US Dept. of Homeland Security WMD Training Course

-Midland Arts Assembly Board Member 2008-2013

-Unequaled Productions Incorporated Theater Group Board Member 2008-2011

-Texas Public Pools Council Member -Certified Pool Operator Certification -Certified Playground Safety Inspector, National Recreation & Parks Association

-Circuit of The Americas Road Marshal and Intervention Marshal

#### **COMPUTER SKILLS**

Proficient in Microsoft applications, Facility management, EMS, Rec-Trac, Main Trac, ServiceU and various on-line registration services, CSI Daxco, Blackboard, Banner, D2L, Maxient Conduct software, CleryEdge, StarRez.

#### **AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

2023 Graduate of Governor's Executive Program XLI

2020 SFA Way Award, University Affairs, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX

2010 Service Delivery Award, City of Midland, TX

2009 Leadership Midland Graduate 2004

Ordained Deacon, First Baptist Church, Alpine Texas 2004

Coached Championship SRSU Cheer Squad at Daytona Beach, FL

2003 Leadership Big Bend graduate

2003 SRSU Advisor of the Year Award, Alpine, TX 2001

Elected NIRSA State Director for Colorado/Wyoming 2001

Coached Mines Women's Soccer Club that competed at NIRSA National Tournament, Tuscaloosa, AL

1996-97 Texas Armadillos Pro-Am Soccer Club, Houston, TX

1996 Graduate Dean's Scholarship, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, TX 1990-94

Varsity X-Country and Track & Field Teams, Hunter College, NYC, NY 1994

Augusta Niedhart Award for Service and Scholarship, Hunter College, NY 1993-94

Varsity Club Founder and President, Hunter College, New York City, NY 1993

Captain of Pan-American Triathlon Championship Team, Republic of Panama 1992

Recreation Department Service Award, Hunter College, New York City, NY 1989

Deans List, Panama Canal College, Republic of Panama 1989

Varsity Soccer Selection, Panama Canal College, Republic of Panama 1988-89

Participated in jungle survival instructor training, water-borne training, confidence and ropes course training at the Jungle Operations Training Center, Ft. Sherman, Republic of Panama