

Joseph Lovell, Assistant Professor and Program Director – Dixie State University

Joe is an Assistant Professor and Program Director of the Recreation and Sport Management major at Dixie State University in St. George, Utah. He moved from Missouri to Utah in 2016 as he was hired by DSU to create the school's recreation major, which was first offered in 2017. Joe's love for playing basketball in his youth led him to being recruited to play at Southern Virginia University where he received his bachelor's in Recreation Administration and Physical Education. Later he received a master's in Recreation and Sport Management at the University of Idaho and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Lindenwood University where he was able to investigate sport and leisure behavior regarding physical activity and wellness in leisure services.

Joe considers himself a parks and rec kid as he grew up playing multiple sports in his community and later became a referee and volunteer coach. When he started his career in municipal recreation, he primarily worked in youth leisure programs, special events and later in youth and adult sports. Joe has been in higher education since 2008 teaching recreation related courses. He has presented his research initiatives locally, nationally, and internationally. He is a CPRP and AFO as well as serves as an accreditation site visitor for the Council on Accreditation for Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Related Professions (COAPRT).

While he does not reside or work in Nevada, Joe recognizes that many of his students come from neighboring states and how important it is for him to be involved in those state associations that may one day serve his graduates. While in Missouri, Joe served on the Missouri Park and Recreation Association's board as the vice president and later president of the Leisure Educators section, was a member of multiple task forces as well as the Facility Design and Management School, and was a region director for the association's Bluebird Disc Golf Tournament fundraiser for several years. He is also the recent recipient of the Outstanding Academic Professional award from the Utah Recreation and Parks Association and continues to seek donations to help fund the URPA student scholarship fund. As a new member to NRPS, Joe is looking forward to becoming involved in the association and working with Nevada communities to help prepare the future generation of park and recreation professionals.

When not grading homework, preparing for class, or working with students, Joe loves spending time with his wife, Celeste, and five children. He is very active supporting his children's sporting activities, often dividing and conquering with his wife as both volunteer to coach their various kids. He loves to travel, spend time in the cooler mountains camping, playing card and board games, and still loves playing basketball.

