Greetings from Managing Director

Husky Sport is entering year 11 as a community-campus partnership. Wow!

While we can recite a great number of challenges faced throughout the years, there are easily 10 TIMES the amount of successful moments and long-term accomplishments. We all can take great pride as contributing people and partners in this rather unique collaborative effort. The school year has just begun and we are already hearing both amazing and symbolic statements from students and staff, young and old;

“Are you going to make fruit smoothies, again?”

“I can’t wait to play at Parker.”

“This is a shared learning process.”

“When is Husky Sport starting up again?”

“Hey, I know you from the Green House.”

“We’re not here to save anyone.”

Our work is not so much recognized on a standardized test, but instead you see it in the people! Thanks for all you’ve done and hope to connect again soon.

Please check out our updated website, meet some of our staff, and learn more about a new collaborative partner/program for which we are all excited about.

Justin Evanovich, PhD - Managing Director, Husky Sport
justin.evanovich@uconn.edu
STAFF SHOWCASE

Name: Amanda Rae Mclean
Position: Graduate Assistant
Favorite Fruit: Grapes
Favorite Veggie: Carrots
Favorite Sport to Play: Basketball
Favorite Subject in 5th Grade: Math
What drew you to work for Husky Sport: Kids and Sports
Impressions of Husky Sport so far: The importance of consistency

Name: Jesse Mala
Position: Graduate Assistant
Favorite Fruit: Mango
Favorite Veggie: Tomato
Favorite Sport to Play: Football
Favorite Subject in 5th Grade: Physical Education
What drew you to work for Husky Sport: Sport, Exercise Science, Community
Impressions of Husky Sport so far: Relationships are highly valued

Name: John Schumacher
Position: Graduate Assistant
Favorite Fruit: Granny Smith Green Apples
Favorite Veggie: Snap Green Beans
Favorite Sport to Play: Soccer
Favorite Subject in 5th Grade: Physical Education
What drew you to work for Husky Sport: Sport and Higher Education
Impressions of Husky Sport so far: Many different, but interconnected, working parts
Name: Michael Corral  
Position: Graduate Assistant  
Favorite Fruit: Mango  
Favorite Veggie: Malanga  
Favorite Sport to Play: Football  
Favorite Subject in 5th Grade: Physical Education  
What drew you to work for Husky Sport: Power of Sport, Educational Leadership  
Impressions of Husky Sport so far: Shared learning process (we are not saving the world)

Name: Wura Olusekun  
Position: Graduate Assistant  
Favorite Fruit: Frozen Grapes  
Favorite Veggie: Broccoli  
Favorite Sport to Play: Soccer  
Favorite Subject in 5th Grade: History  
What drew you to work for Husky Sport: Youth Development, Connection to Sport  
Impressions of Husky Sport so far: Reciprocity of learning and growth

Name: Patricia Bellamy  
Position: Assistant Director  
Favorite Fruit: Pineapples  
Favorite Veggie: Broccoli  
Favorite Sport to Play: Volleyball  
Favorite Subject in 5th Grade: Math  
What drew you to work for Husky Sport: Volunteerism, University Connections  
Impressions of Husky Sport so far: The overall story is unique and cool
HUSKY MOVE!
PLAYING IN THE GYM WITH A SCIENTIFIC STRATEGY!

Identified Needs: Youth participation in physical activity is critical for preventing obesity, extending life expectancy, and improving quality of life. Keeping children active provides innumerable benefits that include a preventative approach to the $150+ billion direct medical and reduced costs associated with obesity/diabetes in adults. Competency in fundamental movement skills (FMS) (i.e. running, balancing) is associated with increased physical activity levels and weight status in children. However, vast numbers of children lack this competency upon entering adolescence especially in low resourced communities.

Specific Aims: 1) To evaluate the effects of Husky Move on FMS performance, neuromuscular injury risk factors, measures of obesity (BMI percentile & % body fat), and physical activity monitoring during the school day in children from low resourced communities compared to an active control group. 2) To evaluate the effectiveness of the integration of Husky Move into Husky Sport initiatives to expand knowledge and change attitudes regarding physical activity.

Program Overview: Husky Move will be implemented at the beginning of P.E. classes for around 33% of the student population at Clark during the 2014-2015 academic year (125 students). Students will be cluster-randomized by class to receive the intervention or continue with their regular P.E. curriculum (active control). The research team will support the physical education teacher using a phased-out implementation strategy to promote program adoption and maintenance.

Program Evaluation: We will perform valid and reliable assessments to evaluate BMI percentile, % body fat, FMS performance (Test of Gross Motor Development 2), balance (Balance Error Scoring System), and landing technique (Landing Error Scoring System) four times during the academic school year. Participants and staff will also inform lesson plans and activities through process and formal feedback (check-ins, surveys, focus groups).