



2023 AASP Diversity in Sport Regional Conference Final Report

The 2023 AASP Diversity in Sport Regional Conference was located at Long Beach State University on Friday April 21st, 2023, through Saturday April 22nd, 2023. This report will provide information regarding the conference.

Attendance Overview

Total Number of Attendees:	88
Undergraduate Students:	20
Graduate Students:	50
Doctoral Students:	2
Professionals:	3
Faculty:	12
Other:	1

Schools Represented: 19

Boston University
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Los Angeles
California State University, Northridge
East Los Angeles College/Cerritos College
Hope International University
Long Beach Community College
Long Beach State University
Loyola Marymount University
Midwestern University, Glendale, AZ
Pennsylvania Western University
Sacramento State University
San Jose State University
University of Denver
University of Michigan
University of Northern Colorado
University of Western States
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
UNC – Greensboro

Conference Summary

The 2023 AASP Diversity in Sport Regional Conference was hosted by Long Beach State University. The conference had a variety of workshops, lectures, and keynotes that centered around the promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion in sports spaces, as well as discussions on how to implement strategies to foster safe spaces in our practice. The conference began with two pre-conference workshops. One was a DEI Statement Workshop led by Long Beach State professor Dr. Alison Ede. The workshop centered on what a DEI statement is, what considerations to make when writing one, and how to be more personal and specific when crafting a statement. The workshop allowed attendees to ask questions and discuss personal challenges they have encountered when starting to write statements for graduate school or job applications. The second pre-conference workshop was a Dark Climb at our recreation center's rock wall. Attendees were tasked with climbing the wall while visually impaired, allowing a caller to assist them with getting to the top. This challenged individuals to consider alternative and accessible ways for people to engage in sport and physical activity. After a brief conference welcome and land/labor acknowledgement, the conference officially kicked off with a workshop from Long Beach State's Adapted Physical Education students. They led us in universally designed icebreakers and activities for peer interaction that include adaptations such as those for individuals in wheelchairs. This was followed by three student lectures from Cal State LA with Q&A opportunities. We then had a 45-minute poster session with three student posters. The second workshop of the day was about LGBTQ2IA+ affinity groups, where students led a meaningful activity with self-reflection and group discussions on supporting athletes with multiple and intersecting identities. The first day concluded with a keynote from Dr. Jessika Smith. She talked about her journey both as an elite athlete and as a woman in sport pursuing higher education, emphasizing the setbacks and how she overcame obstacles. Following the first day, all students were invited to an evening social at Ballast Point, a beautiful restaurant with ocean views where students gathered to eat, play board games, and network.

Saturday morning began with an informal morning run, starting at our iconic "Go Beach" sign and following a 1.5-mile loop around lower campus. The conference programming began with a morning workshop from our colleagues at San Jose State University called JEDI training for Youth Athletes. This workshop creatively integrated Star Wars themed content with ideas of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) while making the subject material accessible to younger audiences. Attendees built their own "saber" by brainstorming language that can be used as tools for self-advocacy, advocacy of others, and deflection of harmful words and attitudes. Our second workshop was led by Long Beach State professors Dr. Leilani Madrigal and Dr. Jana Fogaca, who presented on Sense of Belonging within Academia. In this workshop, attendees were able to discuss practical strategies to foster belonging as a student, faculty member, consultant, and coach via an interactive poster writing activity. The morning session wrapped with a keynote speech from Dr. Shaun Anderson, who spoke on the history of black athlete activism and the ways that athletes can be supported in the current social justice movements. Lunch and refreshments were provided. Each attendee was given a box from Urban Plates that consisted of a sandwich, bag of chips, side salad, and a cookie. After lunch, we had another student lecture from UNC- Greensboro, followed by a workshop from our invited guest Dr. Kellie Walters. She led a workshop talking about her non-profit organization called Smart Fit Girls, sharing her process as she restructures her administrative practices to be more diverse, equitable, and inclusive. This included decisions about staffing, policy, and purpose statements

for the organization. The next activity was the Student Slam. This event provided students with the chance to give their DEI statement in the format of an “elevator pitch” and receive feedback from two faculty judges. First, students had a group discussion about reservations, barriers, and challenges to writing their statements. Then, time was provided to reflect and structure a 2–3 minute statement. After that, each student gave their DEI statement pitch to the group and received a scoring rubric with feedback on strengths and things to improve. All participants received an entry to a raffle for Dr. Anderson’s recently published book: *The Black Athlete Revolt: The Sport Justice Movement in the Age of #BlackLivesMatter*. The conference closed with a keynote speech from Mr. Adrian Broca, a blind marathon runner and ironman triathlete. He spoke about his journey being a visually impaired, his mentality as he approaches racing and overcoming obstacles, and the different challenges that he faces when seeking assistance and accommodations like finding the right running guide.

Overall, this conference covered a wide variety of topics centered around diversity, equity, and inclusion. The content initiated many meaningful and necessary conversations around creating safe spaces in our work and provided tangible tools and strategies to carry back to our respective institutions.

Funding

Funds for the conference came from the following sources:

- AASP Grant: \$500
- Long Beach State Kinesiology Department: \$1,750
- Associated Students Grant (via the Sport and Exercise Psychology Club): \$1,200
- Registration: \$1,925

Conference Costs

We charged all attendees \$35 for registration. 55 people registered through our Cashnet link totaling \$1,925. The Kinesiology Department budget covered registration for our volunteers and guests, totaling \$1,750. Parking on campus amounts to \$15 per day, covered by the attendees.

The rental cost for the rock wall to host the Dark Climb was \$376. Costs associated with renting tables and chairs for registration outside of the event space totaled to \$50. Ten parking vouchers per day were covered by the conference fees and distributed to those who requested financial assistance, totaling \$330.

Our two off-campus invited guests, Dr. Shaun Anderson and Dr. Adrian Broca, were compensated \$500 each for their hour-long keynote presentations. Due to university policy, we were not allowed to pay our two on-campus invited guests, Dr. Jessika Smith and Dr. Kellie Walters. Instead, we provided them with university-approved gifts to thank them for their contributions to our conference, which amounted to \$250 each.

On Friday we provided drinks (water, sodas) and light snacks for our guests. On Saturday, we provided coffee and pastries for breakfast and Urban Plated boxed meals for lunch, along with drinks and snacks. We purchased food for an estimated 100 attendees and spent about \$2,500 on all food and drink.

Remaining costs included printing nametags, programs, flyers, and posters for the event. We purchased signs and balloons that were placed along the path from the parking structure to the conference location. Other purchases included tablecloths, plates, napkins, pens, and other miscellaneous stationary items. These extra purchases totaled about \$500.

Program Highlights

Two Pre-Conference Workshops:

- DEI Statement Workshop
 - *Led by Dr. Alison Ede*
- Dark Climb
 - *Facilitated by Student Rec and Wellness Center Rock Wall Staff*

Three Keynote Presentations:

- Experiences of an emerging professional
 - *Dr. Jessika Smith*
- Background of social justice and black athlete activism
 - *Dr. Shaun Anderson*
- Journey of a blind marathon runner and ironman triathlete
 - *Mr. Adrian Broca*

Invited Workshop:

- DEI work in the structure of non-profits
 - *Dr. Kellie Walters*

A Poster Session with 3 Posters

Four Student Lectures

Four Applied Workshops

One Professional Development Competition

- Student Slam
 - *Opportunity for students to discuss approaches to writing DEI statements, present their DEI statement verbally to peers and professionals, and receive feedback from faculty members via a rubric*

One Social

- Student Social took place at Ballast Point on Friday evening

Feedback Summary

Conference Event	Mean Score (Scale 1-10)
Pre-Conference DEI Statement Workshop	8.86
Pre-Conference Dark Climb	10.00
Keynote - Dr. Jessika Smith	9.67
Student Social @ Ballast Point	9.17
Keynote - Dr. Shaun Anderson	9.91
Student Slam	8.78
Keynote - Mr. Adrian Broca	9.47

Item	Mean Score (Scale 1-5)
The workshop content was appropriate for a DEI - focused conference.	4.89
The keynote speakers were appropriate for a DEI - focused conference.	4.95

The lecture content was appropriate for a DEI-focused conference.	4.84
The conference space made me feel safe/welcome/included.	4.74
The conference was well organized.	4.74
The conference provided good opportunities for networking.	4.68
The conference provided good opportunities for professional development.	4.67
I am glad that I attended this conference.	5.00

What Attendees Liked	What We Could Improve
Hearing DEI Statements from peers	Networking opportunities for professionals
Keynote speakers	Hosting in a more comfortable classroom/lecture hall
Everything was well organized	Give slightly longer breaks when transitioning
Choice of workshops	
Poster sessions to interact with others	
Having people from different schools and states to network/connect with	