

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** 11-5-2009

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**Jordan named chair of Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies**

GREENVILLE, N.C. (Nov. 5, 2009)—Dr. Deb Jordan has been appointed professor and chair of the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies by Glen G. Gilbert, dean of the College of Health and Human Performance at East Carolina University.

Jordan comes to ECU from Oklahoma State University, where she served as the graduate coordinator for the leisure studies program and taught in the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs.

Throughout her career, Jordan has received funding for research grants and has been recognized for her achievements, including being one of eight people chosen by the National Recreation and Park Association in March 2009 to participate in a summit to develop online education programs for parks, recreation, and leisure services professionals. In 2007, she was elected as a fellow to the Academy of Leisure Studies, a 100-member honorary academy for parks, recreation, and leisure services scholars.

She has authored or co-authored six textbooks and chapters as well as numerous articles in scholarly publications and has been an invited guest speaker for many organizations and universities across the country.

Jordan earned an undergraduate degree in parks and recreation with an emphasis in recreation resource management in 1980 from Slippery Rock State College. In 1983, she received a graduate degree from Western Illinois University and in 1988 she earned a doctorate from Indiana University, both in parks and recreation administration.

“RCLS has an incredibly strong faculty and a tradition of being student-oriented. I am delighted to be a part of such a group of dedicated professionals,” said Jordan. “I look forward to working with faculty and staff to increase the level of excellence we have in scholarship, teaching, and service.

“We have a lot to contribute to the region and the state in leadership development, quality of life, and sustainability of the natural environment. We will be seeking ways to capitalize on the opportunities to evolve our program and the state of North Carolina,” she said.

Her research interests include leadership, culture and diversity, and the social psychology of leisure behavior in natural settings.

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