



30 under 30



50 over 50

#KNOW1BE1SHOW1

50 Over 50!

Clark Dikeman

Retired

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A word from Clark

Many people will tell you how lucky we are to work in recreation because we bring joy and satisfaction into people's lives. I certainly agree with this assessment; however, I think it's only part of the equation. I believe we need to experience that same kind of joy and satisfaction in our work as recreation providers. If you're not in a work environment that is infused with positive energy then it drains the joy and satisfaction you can bring to the services you provide the community.

It is important to find a fit in an agency whose mission and values match your own. As you grow within the field, try to have a generalist approach and work to find working areas of parks and recreation that make you happy and also bring a benefit to the community. A career in recreation will always be considered successful if you grew as a professional, left the agency you work for better than it was when you came to it, and created a community of advocates to support your parks and rec endeavors.

Making money shouldn't be the driving force to do what you do, it is a poor trade for sacrificing happiness. Be secure of your purpose in improving quality of life and serve with a strong heart and mind.

About Clark...

I was born in Buffalo, New York with a child's innate ability to play. This ability is something I've worked my whole life to hang on to. After attending UCLA I embarked on a career as an Educational Therapist. Many of those skills helped me deal with the many challenges of general public, customer service. My long educational and recreational career included stints in Santa Monica, Culver City and Beverly Hills. Although I retired from full time employment three years ago, I continue to lifeguard part time and teach adult fitness classes. I live with my wife and two dogs in Culver City and enjoy gardening, Boogie Boarding and naps.