



PRESS RELEASE

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Lisle Park District's Mike Gianatasio Wins State "Young Professional Award"

Lisle, IL – When Mike Gianatasio, Recreation Program Manager at the Lisle Park District heard his name announced as the winner of the "Young Professional Award" at the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) annual conference he was speechless. On January 27, in the presence of over 2,000 parks and recreation professionals, distinguished guests, and state legislators from the state of Illinois, Mike received this prestigious award. The honor is presented to "a current park and recreation professional who has shown excellence in promoting parks and recreation on local and regional levels within the state of Illinois." Mike's supervisor, Michael Toohey, Superintendent of Recreation, and the Lisle Park District staff agreed that Mike exemplified the qualities of the award and were not surprised when IPRA selected him as the 2011 winner. "I'm usually not at a loss for words, but it was very unexpected and humbling. I'm honored that my coworkers nominated me, and I thank the Lisle Park District for being so supportive of what we do as a staff and the trust and confidence that the district shows in us is unparalleled" said Gianatasio.

A Certified Parks and Recreation Professional, Mike joined the Lisle Park District in 2008 and is responsible for the Before & After School Program, all general recreation programs, teen camp and programs. Under Mike's supervision, "No Name Teen Camp" has doubled enrollment in just three years. As Recreation Program Manager, he is also responsible for many special events including: Totally Tuesdays, Movies in the Park, the egg and flashlight egg hunt, Battle of the Bands, and is the Lisle representative for Road Rally, a multi-park district adult scavenger hunt.

Those who work with Mike best explained why Mike is incredibly deserving of this award: Dan Garvy, the Lisle Park District Director of Parks and Recreation says, "Mike's dedication, creativity and just innate ability to relate to others truly makes him one of the most effective employees with whom I have ever had the honor to work." Lisle High School Resource Officer Gus Gloede says, "Mike is a committed, energetic, positive role model for the youth of our community."

Mike also volunteers his time to a number of community activities that benefit Lisle's youth including, Lisle Teens with Character, Lisle Character Counts alliance, and "Operation Snowball," an overnight event for over 100 Lisle Senior High School students each fall. Beyond Mike's commitment to active involvement in the Lisle Park District and Community, Mike serves on three IPRA committees, and is the elected chairperson for both IPRA Teen Committee and IPRA Battle of the Bands and most recently, the chair for IPRA Supervisor Symposium and director-elect for IPRA Recreation Section.

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