

Chris Pelchat

Position Statement

I have been actively involved with the WEA for six years as a NSP Certifying Instructor, as well as the Affiliate Representative for Ithaca College. During my six years, I have entertained several roles from student to President of the Board of Trustees. Achievements while acting as President for the WEA include:

- Aligned the Board of Trustees with clearly written job descriptions and effectively made the role of the Board of Trustees clear to the membership
- Revitalized the committee structure and rewrote committee charges
- Revised By-Laws
- Implemented a new and interactive website
- Opened lines of effective communication between the National Office and Board of Trustees.
- Developed a working relationship with Human Kinetics and contracted the WEA to write two books in a four book series (*Hiking and Backpacking* and *Rock Climbing*)

I would like to see the WEA continue to grow as an association within outdoor industry. Three specific areas within the WEA that I would like to give attention include:

- Membership growth and retention
- Improved communication between the National Office and Affiliates offering courses
- Establish Board of Trustees structure that offers quality committee support

I look forward to the opportunity to serve the WEA in a leadership capacity. If anyone would like to talk with me about my ideas and implementation strategies, or discuss your ideas concerning the WEA and its needs, email me at cpelchat@ithaca.edu.

Thank you.

Biographical Information

Background: Chris grew up in Washington State, outside of Seattle, in a little town called Issaquah. He spent most of his childhood tromping around in the North Cascades where he fell in love with the outdoors. Through these experiences, Chris realized his desire to use the outdoors as a medium for learning. As Chris continued his education, he became an avid climber and now spends most of his time playing in water and traveling to the mountains with students.

Education: Chris Pelchat obtained a B.A. double major in Outdoor Recreation and Recreation Management from Eastern Washington University in 1999 and continued at EWU to work on his graduate work. He finished his M.Ed. in Adult Education with a certificate in College Instruction in 2000. Chris currently attends the University of Idaho where he is working on a Ph.D. in Physical Education, Health, Recreation, and Dance.

Experience: Chris has ten years of experience in wilderness education. Currently, Chris is a professor at Ithaca College instructing courses within the Outdoor Adventure Leadership B.S. program. He is rewriting the program's curriculum to enhance the overall experience provided by the college. Before teaching at Ithaca, he was the Director of a co-curricular program called EPIC Adventures at Eastern Washington University.