

# HALL OF FAME



**Dr. LaVernia Jorgensen**

## **Dr. LaVernia Jorgensen**

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA**

**1994**

Dr. LaVernia Jorgensen was one of the first two individuals nominated to the NDRPA Hall of Fame.

Jorgensen graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 1939, received her master's from the University of Minnesota in 1950, and earned her doctorate from Indiana University in 1960. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she spent nine years teaching in the Minnesota Public School system before working at several colleges and universities as a health, physical education, and recreation professor. In 1963, she began as a professor at the University of North Dakota, where she remained until her retirement in 1988.

Jorgensen is credited with developing the recreation minor at the University of North Dakota, which later evolved into the recreation major. She also helped establish the women's athletic programs at the University of North Dakota.

Jorgensen was a founding member of NDRPA and held the offices of president, vice president, and trustee during her time as a member. Under her direction, NDRPA created the organization's first written bylaws.

Highly involved in professional recreation and education associations, Jorgenson served as president of the North Dakota Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and the North Dakota Association for Physical Education of College Women. She was listed many times in Who's Who biographical reference publications in the categories of American education, women, Midwest, United States, America, and education. Starting in 1965, her articles were published in many professional publications, writing mainly in the fields of education and recreation.

Jorgenson shared her experiences with professionals around the Midwest and was a speaker at multiple NDRPA conferences.

Throughout her life, she was given many awards and was honored by the Pine to Prairie Girl Scouts Council, who named a scholarship after her.

She passed away in 2009.

*All NDRPA Hall of Fame members are recognized with plaques at the North Dakota Sports Hall of Fame in the Jamestown Civic Center.*

**Advancing parks and recreation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota.**

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