



DR. KAYLA PEAK

PROFESSOR



TARLETON
STATE UNIVERSITY
School of Kinesiology

With hard work and dedication, anything is possible. — Timothy Weah

Dr. Kayla Peak knows this well. She has been a tireless advocate for the Kinesiology & Sport industry.

Peak has spent her career immersed in the study of Kinesiology & Sport within the Higher Education setting. As a result, she was instrumental in elevating the Department of Kinesiology at Tarleton State University into the *School of Kinesiology*. Now, as the Head of the School, **Peak** is responsible for the overarching mission and vision, recruitment and retention, fundraising, and historical documentation of the program.

A double alumna of Tarleton State University, **Peak** earned her doctoral degree in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation at Texas A&M University – Commerce (TAMU-C) in 1995. **Peak** joined the ranks of Tarleton State

University in 2006. She currently serves in a dual appointment as the Head of the School of Kinesiology and as the Associate Dean for the College of Education.

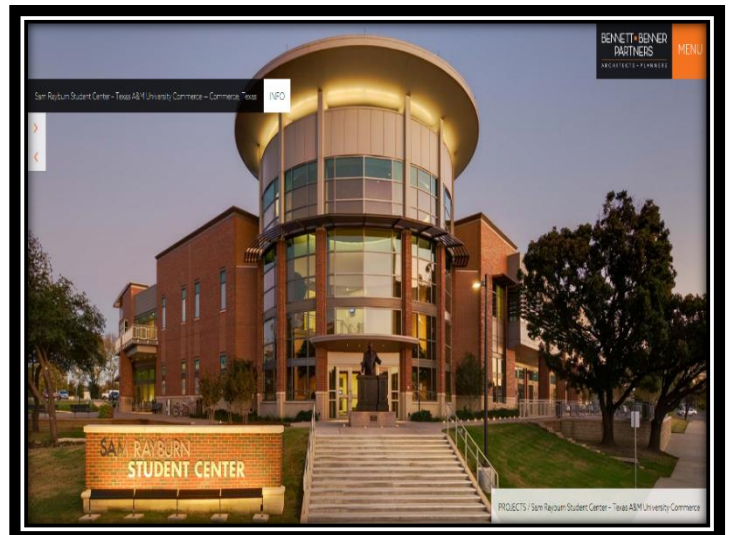
Dr. Peak has been in numerous leadership positions at Tarleton State. She has served two stints as Kinesiology Department Chair (2017-18 & 2013-15) and was appointed Associate Dean in 2015. She has also been a



‘thought’ leader. It was in 2014 that she collaborated with other Kinesiology faculty members to help develop a plan to dissolve the existing Department of Kinesiology and create two new departments, which included six career-focused meta-major concentrations and two graduate programs. Based on the size, scope and complexity of the Kinesiology Department, she led the efforts to transition completely from an academic department to a School. And in 2018, the School of Kinesiology was approved.

A teacher at heart, **Peak** has been honored with an extensive list of teaching awards since returning to her alma mater, including the *Texas Physical Educator of the Year* (TAHPERD, 2012), the *Excellence in Teaching Award* (Tarleton State University, 2011), and the *Faculty Excellence in Scholarship Award* (Tarleton State University, College of Education, 2011). She was also a three-time recipient of the *Excellence in Teaching Award* from the Texas A&M University System (2011, 2010, 2009). In addition, **Peak** was selected as the inaugural *Faculty Fellow* at Tarleton State University and served a three-year term (2010-2013) in the Center for Instructional Innovation.

Serving in an administrative role since 2013, **Dr. Peak’s** leadership and vision have been recognized by her professional colleagues. She received the state-wide *Honor Award* (TAHPERD, 2019) as well as the *University Administrator of the Year* (TAHPERD, 2017) for her dedication to the Kinesiology profession. Prior to coming to Tarleton in 2006, **Peak** worked as Director of Campus Recreation for Texas A&M University-Commerce from 1997 to 2006. As an avid supporter of athletics, **Peak** served as the Assistant Athletic Director for the NCAA Division II Lion Athletic Department at TAMU-C from 1993-1996. Among her most notable accomplishments were the years she served as the Project Manager for the design and construction of the Jerry D. Morris Recreation Center, Sam Rayburn Student Center,



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and the Cain Sports Complex. Her work on the Sam Rayburn Student Center was recognized in 2011 by the American Council of Unions International (ACUI) for *Outstanding Facility Design*.



Dr. Peak has been fully engaged in the Kinesiology profession as evidenced by her consistent activity in scholarly pursuits, including 52 published research articles and abstracts, 97 presentations at international, national, regional, and state conferences, and over \$350K in grants and development initiatives.

One of the highlights of **Peak's** career was the Study Abroad initiative that she co-directed with Dr. Steve Simpson. The two collaborated to create the first Study Abroad in Kinesiology. In the summer of 2015, the group embarked upon a 24-day experience in Scotland.

Peak and her husband, Paul, have one son, Paul-David. As a former NCAA college basketball coach and athletic director, Paul has been inducted into four Athletic Hall of Fames for his skills on the hardwood and from the coaching bench. The couple has been married since 1993 and reside in Stephenville, Texas. During their free time, the **Peak** family can be found on the golf course or camping in the great outdoors.

