

Jason Bocarro, Ph.D.

Owens-Shelton Distinguished Professor of Leadership with a Global Perspective
James Buzzard Leadership Development Program Director

Biography

Dr. Jason Bocarro is the Owens-Shelton Distinguished Professor of Leadership with a Global Perspective. He is also the James Buzzard Leadership Program Director and a University Faculty Scholar in the College of Natural Resources. Dr. Bocarro's research focuses on the intersection of childhood and adolescent health and inactivity and specifically examining the relationship between the built environment and public spaces and human health. His research has been funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), the Centers for Disease Control, National Park Service, European Union (EU), National Recreation and Park Association, and sport governing bodies such as USA Hockey and the National Hockey League. In 2011, he was one of 5 researchers in the U.S. to be awarded a policy translation grant from RWJF in recognition of research that has the potential to change public policy. His research has been featured in Time Magazine, the Guardian, National Public Radio, and USA Today. In 2010, Dr. Bocarro was named the College of Natural Resources Outstanding Teaching of the Year and an NC State Outstanding Teacher and was inducted into the Academy of Outstanding Teachers. In 2015 he was named Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor, awarded in recognition of distinguished service in support of undergraduate teaching. In 2014 and 2017, Dr. Bocarro was awarded an International Visiting Fellowship from Coventry University, UK to collaborate with faculty from 5 countries examining the impact of Mega Sporting Events. In 2014/15 he received a Visiting Scholar Award from the Technische Universität München, Germany. In 2015, Dr. Bocarro was named an NC State Faculty Scholar, awarded to recognize and reward emerging academic leaders among the NC State faculty. In 2019, Dr. Bocarro was inducted as a Fellow into the Academy of Leisure Sciences in recognition of his leadership within the profession. In 2021, Dr. Bocarro won an Outstanding Engagement Award and was inducted into the Academy of Outstanding Faculty in Extension and Engagement. In 2023, Dr. Bocarro was presented with the Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching at NC State, the highest teaching award in the UNC system. Dr. Bocarro has published over 80 peer reviewed research journal publications spanning a number of disciplines including medicine, sociology, public health, psychology, parks and recreation, exercise science and education as well as book chapters and practitioner based publications. He is also the co-editor of the book *Legacies of Mega Events: Fact or Fairy Tales* published by Routledge. He has also conducted a number of trainings and workshops at state, national and international conferences primarily focusing on youth and adolescent issues and physical activity. Dr. Bocarro has also served on a number of committees including NC State's University Research Committee and the NC State Council on Athletics. He also served on the board of Society for Park and Recreation Educators (2006-2009) and served a 2 year term (2011-2013) as the research co-chair for the National Recreation and Parks Association and served a 6 year term on the COAPRT council that oversees the accreditation process for parks, recreation and tourism undergraduate programs. Dr. Bocarro is also the Executive Education Director for the British American Business Council designed to build on the close professional, business, and cultural relationships between the United States and the United Kingdom and to act as a catalyst to help maintain and further strengthen the strong and lasting trade partnerships between these two countries. Before working in academia, Dr. Bocarro was involved with the development and supervision of youth adventure and sport programs in a variety of places and settings, including London, England; Nova Scotia, Canada; Texas; and New Hampshire.