



May 5, 2022

What a way to close out the winter of 2021-22 – with an incredible experience at National Academy, Rider Rally, Adaptive Academy, and Telemark Academy at Big Sky, Montana, where we welcomed 460 coaches and attendees to the largest educational event in our history. Throughout a week of great on-snow clinics with PSIA-AASI National Team members, educational presentations, and interaction with Official Suppliers, the sense of community and friendship was incredible.

It occurred to me that this event perfectly captures the people skills, teaching skills, and technical skills at the heart of our Learning Connection Model. This model gives us the tools to welcome everyone who wants to participate in snowsports, whether as students or instructors.

In honor of how the Learning Connection helps us grow the snowsports community, I wanted to share this inspirational video highlighting a few of our new members' stories of success. This past year, in partnership with Women of Winter, we offered five events certifying 30 women of color and welcoming them into our educational community. We premiered [this video](#) on the closing night of National Academy to celebrate how the success we see as an organization directly relates to the success of our members.

As our season ends, I'm incredibly proud of this and our many other initiatives supporting access, equity, and inclusion – and thankful that these women embraced the opportunity to create adventures through education. As an ever-evolving organization dedicated to enhancing the snowsports experience for all through education, these are essential first steps, with many more to come.

Just as you and your fellow instructors turn one day's lesson into the inspiration for many more days on snow for your students, PSIA-AASI's leaders – and partners – are mentoring the next generation's educators to grow our association's future. It takes so many people to drive success for this organization, and I'm grateful for the commitment of all.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Herrin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "N".

Nicholas Herrin
PSIA-AASI CEO