

Far West Ski Association

presents the **Jordan-Reily Award** to

Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra

Years of Service: **2015–2017**

Care for wounded warriors, or in fact for other categories of injury, is both a healthcare and public affairs issue today in the USA. It is a terrible waste of talent to separate the disabled from American education or industry. Enabling the disabled is a central issue that Americans can and will resolve through rehabilitation and education.

Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (DSES) has undertaken an ambitious program of fundraising to establish a National Wounded Warrior Center (NWWC) in Mammoth Lakes, CA. This is in addition to their efforts in the disabled ski school. They have obtained the land and are developing plans to build and sustain a facility to accommodate the injured, their caregivers, clinicians and persons close to them for a period ranging from a couple of days to a couple of years. The injured may participate in a variety of sports or exercise programs, to include snowsports, biking, hiking and other activities available in the Eastern Sierra. On snow activity would be aimed at enabling the recovering patient to develop adaptive skiing skills.

Because of the scale of the program - \$18 million for construction, up to \$23 million for sustaining funding – DSES is well into the process of establishing relationships. Organizationally, they have their services cadre, a Board of Directors, an Advisory Council, have hired a consultant and an Executive Director – Kathy Copeland.

The NWWC will be a fully accessible, state of the art, environmentally friendly facility adjacent to Cerro Coso Community College. The NWWC would empower wounded, injured, and ill servicemen and women by facilitating their transition into fulfilling civilian lives through education, rehabilitation, health and wellness.

DSES is a public benefit corporation operating under the provisions of IRS code paragraph 501c3. DSES and NWWC are volunteer based organizations. DSES Program Director for NWWC is Maggie Palchak.

The Jordan-Reily Award recognizes a one or two year activity and achievement in the Association's Public Affairs programs— area development, skier safety, liability protections, governmental affairs, taxation, and transportation. This award may also be given to an individual in government or the ski industry.

Respectfully nominated by *John Watson & Gloria Raminha*.