

Dr. Katie Wall began her career at Lees-McRae College in 2016 after finishing her doctorate and working with Outdoor Programs at Appalachian State University. Dr. Wall was brought to Lees-McRae to design their first outdoor recreation-related academic program. Since her time at the College, she has created three programs: Outdoor Recreation Management, Ski Industry Business & Instruction, and Wilderness Medicine & Rescue. The Outdoor Recreation Management program is the only outdoor recreation program in a school of business in the country. The Ski Industry Business & Instruction program is one of only three on the East Coast and is housed at Beech Mountain Resort, and the Wilderness Medicine & Rescue program is the only one of its kind in the country.

These academic programs are highly experiential, fast-growing, and unique. They oversee various facilities, including the Adventure Park Learning Lab, Wildcat Lake & Equipment Rentals, indoor climbing wall and outdoor climbing sites, disc golf course, and the Brigham Beech Mountain Classroom. Additionally, Dr. Wall created expedition programming at Lees-McRae that focuses on taking students on extended outdoor skill-based domestic and international trips. Five expeditions per year are offered through the outdoor academic programs. Thus far, the programs have traveled to various western ski resorts in CO, ID, MT, UT, WY, Western National Parks, Baja, Bahama, and Belize. Under her leadership, she also created the High Country Film & Speaker Series, hosting multiple outdoor-related films on campus, and Mountain Legends, an event honoring High Country outdoor industry leaders. Dr. Wall is an Associate Professor, the Faculty Senate Vice President, and Academic Travel Coordinator at Lees-McRae College. She is a Wilderness EMT, Certified Outdoor Educator, Leave No Trace Instructor, Board Member for Landmark Learning, and an Advisory Committee Member for MadeXMtns.