

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Open Comment For  
Timeline For Professional  
Degree Transition**

**CAATE Announces  
President-Elect**

**Congratulations to  
Dr. Douglas Gregory**

**Introducing the Director  
of Accreditation**

**2014-15 Annual Report Open**

**New Review Process for  
2014-2015 Annual Report**

**Accreditation Conference  
Registration now open**

## PROFESSIONAL DEGREE TRANSITION

As was announced on May 20, 2015, the Commissioners of the CAATE and the Board of Directors of the NATA, with the support of the BOC and the NATA Foundation, have acted to establish the professional degree in athletic training at the master's level.



The Strategic Alliance (CAATE, NATA, BOC and NATA Foundation) have jointly examined this issue, which is vital to our profession and will impact our place in healthcare for years to come. Over the past 2 ½ years there has been significant discussion and examination of the appropriate level of the professional degree in athletic training. We reviewed the white paper on the professional degree, examined pass rate data, and considered public comment.

Given the current state of higher education and healthcare, change is not only inevitable, but is necessary for the continued growth of the profession. The Commission has a responsibility to ensure and require an educational framework that prepares students to be successful as athletic trainers. Professional education must provide the foundation that allows clinicians to adapt to the changing face of healthcare. They must also be positioned as a healthcare provider who significantly improves the health and well-being of their patients and have meaningful, purposeful career paths. We believe that in order to ensure better healthcare and the viability of athletic training in future years, the professional degree must be at the Master's level. The impact of this decision to post-professional athletic training education is not yet known, and at the request of our post-professional stakeholders, the CAATE will be holding an open forum (more information in this newsletter) to discuss the future of post-professional education.

The Standards for Accreditation of Professional Athletic Training Programs will be changed to include a requirement that professional programs be at the Master's degree level. A change of this magnitude requires significant discussion and planning. Although the Commission has determined that the implementation will occur in a minimum of 7 years, we will be seeking public comment on

## PROFESSIONAL DEGREE TRANSITION (continued)

the timetable. The CAATE anticipates acting on these comments and developing an implementation timeline during its August 2015 meeting.

A degree change alone will not bring about all the things we desire for our profession. As the strategic partners work together to craft the next edition of the educational content, we will do so knowing that the breadth, depth, and rigor must be appropriate for Master's trained students. The new educational content must provide our students and ultimately their patients with a healthcare knowledge that produces a provider that can function as a mid-level (Level II) provider. Providers that are prepared to meet the challenges our patients will face in the future.

The Commission has publically identified educational components that we believe will produce the best health care providers. These components include:

- periods of full-time clinical engagement
- strong foundational scientific knowledge
- faculty with areas of specific expertise
- the inclusion of the Institute of Medicine's core competencies

- alignment with schools of health professions whenever possible
- practitioners who function as a mid-level (Level II) provider (on par with PA, PT, OT and NPs)

The Commission's Standards Committee will examine these principles and begin to develop and identify implementation timelines for future standards that represent the increased rigor that a Master's prepared clinician must have. The intent of this is to aid programs that are transitioning to a Master's, strengthen current Master's professional programs, and prepare our students and profession for their future place in healthcare. As we develop the implementation plan, more details will be made available throughout the summer and beyond, and where appropriate, be offered for public comment. We look forward to working with the institutions, programs and our strategic partners as professional programs transitions to the master's degree. Information specific to programs will be posted on the CAATE website at <http://caate.net/the-professional-degree/> as it becomes available. In addition, general information on the Degree Change will be available at [www.ATStrategicAlliance.org](http://www.ATStrategicAlliance.org) upon launch.

## OPEN COMMENT FOR TIMELINE FOR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE TRANSITION

A separate eblast will be sent in the next few weeks with an invitation for open comment on a specific date for the Professional Degree Transition. In this eblast, the Commission invites its stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposed timeline for transition of the Professional degree to the master's level. The information garnered

during this open comment will serve as a portion of the material to be considered during the Commission's August meeting at which time we anticipate making this decision. The open comment will remain open for 30 days to allow adequate time for stakeholders to participate.

## CAATE ANNOUNCES PRESIDENT-ELECT



The CAATE congratulates Dr. LesLee Taylor on her election as President-Elect of the Commission. Dr. Taylor, Associate Professor and Program Director of the Athletic Training Program at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, will serve as

President-Elect for a period of two years, and will succeed Dr. Mark Merrick (The Ohio State University) as President of the Commission at the completion of Dr. Merrick's term as President in 2017. President-Elect candidates are nominated by any member of the Commission, and selected by the Commissioners. Best of luck to Dr. Taylor in her new position within the CAATE.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. DOUGLAS GREGORY

Dr. Douglas Gregory will be receiving the Bob and Lynn Caruthers Award during the CAATE Volunteer Reception at the NATA Clinical Symposium and AT Expo in St. Louis. Dr. Gregory has made significant contributions to AT accreditation and has been an ongoing advocate for the profession of athletic training. Dr. Gregory has previously served on the Commission as the physician representative for the American Academy of Pediatrics, as well as continuing to serve as both a Site Visitor and Review Committee Member with the CAATE. He was also recently elected the Physician Director-Elect for the Board of Certification.

In his letter of support of Dr. Gregory's nomination for this award, Dr. Greg Gardner stated, "It would be difficult to overstate how important Dr. Gregory has been to Athletic Training and Athletic Training Education. Dr. Gregory worked as an advocate for the profession during a very difficult time of educational

reform and transition. He was tireless in his efforts to ensure that the Academy's support of the JRC-AT, and later the CAATE, never wavered. His presence and influence in the accreditation realm enabled Athletic Training Education to reach new heights without unsafe risks." Dr. Patrick Sexton wrote, "The bottom line is that he (Dr. Gregory) has simply done more for athletic training and athletic training education than most athletic trainers!"

The Commission commends Dr. Gregory for his ongoing service and dedication to athletic training accreditation and the profession as a whole. Make sure to check back in the Fall edition of the Insight newsletter for pictures of the reception and award ceremony.



## OPEN FORUM TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF POST-PROFESSIONAL AT EDUCATION

At the request of its stakeholders, the Commission will be holding an informal Open Forum to discuss the future of Post- Professional Education in Athletic Training in St. Louis during the NATA Annual Meeting. This open forum will be held on Wednesday, June 24th, from 10:00 -11:00 a.m. in the Portland/Benton room at the Renaissance Grand Hotel (800 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, MO). Any questions about the open forum can be directed to Julie@caate.net.

## VISIT US IN ST. LOUIS!



The CAATE will be present at the AT exhibitor show in St. Louis, MO. Stop by **Booth #936** for giveaways, to speak with staff, glean advice and help with eAccreditation, interact with Commissioners, get information ATCAS, or have questions or concerns addressed. We hope to see you there!

## INTRODUCING THE DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION



The CAATE is excited to welcome Dr. Pamela Hansen as the new Director of Accreditation. Dr. Hansen holds a Doctorate of Education degree in Educational Administration, obtained from the University of South Dakota in 2000. She has over 25 years of clinical and educational experience in athletic training, most recently as the Athletic Training Program Director at North Dakota State University. Her previous service includes working on various committees with the NATA, NATA

Research and Education Foundation, as well as the CAATE. Dr. Hansen will be joining the existing staff of Executive Director, Dr. Micki Cuppett, Accreditation Associate and Communications Coordinator, Dr. Julie Cavallario, and Manager of Stakeholder Services, Ms. Ashley Ahearn. Best of luck to Dr. Hansen in her new position, which begins June 15, 2015.

## 2014-15 ANNUAL REPORT OPEN

The 2014-15 Annual Report was opened in eAccreditation on June 1, 2015. The Annual Report will be due October 15, 2015 for ALL programs, including those who have submitted a Self-Study. There will be webinars available throughout the summer for Program Directors who are unfamiliar with the electronic annual report, or for those who would like to review the process.



The 2014-15 Annual Report has pre-populated with Information provided for the 2013-14 Annual Report. The Directory (Faculty, Clinical Sites, and Preceptors), Program Profile, Program Officials, and Student information

must be updated prior to submitting your Annual Report. Program Directors may give others permission to complete portions of the Annual Report, but only the Program Director

can submit the Annual Report. The curriculum module is NOT required when completing the Annual Report.

The Annual Report consists of six sections (General Program Information, Applicants & Enrollment, Faculty, Program Operations, Outcomes, and Access to Information and Compliance). Based on feedback received from programs, a 'Comment' box has been added to each section of the Annual Report to provide further explanation of any question. Two questions were added to Section III: Faculty. Question III.10 and III.11 asks the program to indicate the percentage release time per academic year (fall and spring only) the Program Director and Clinical Education Coordinator is contractually provided for administration of the Program (i.e. 25%). When all sections are complete, you will see a 'Submit' button appear on the **Annual Report > Home** page. Additional instructions can be found on the website by clicking here: <http://caate.net/eaccred/>.

Please feel free to contact the CAATE office at 1-844-GO-CAATE or [support@caate.net](mailto:support@caate.net) with any questions.

## NEW REVIEW PROCESS FOR 2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

There will be a new review process for Annual Reports that are submitted for the 2014-2015 academic year. Following submission of the report, materials will be reviewed and if compliance is unable to be determined based on the submitted materials, the program will have the opportunity to submit requested materials in a rejoinder process. Following review of the rejoinder if a Standard is still non-compliant, it becomes an accreditation action and will be noted on the CAATE website. This change in process will ultimately allow for programs to address any omissions and further clarify their information in the submission prior to Commission action. Only after the rejoinder process is completed will there be a change in status on the CAATE's website. This process will take effect only for new Annual

Reports from the 2014-2015 reporting year, and does not impact the ongoing review process or associated due dates for progress reports submitted for the 2013-2014 reporting period. Any questions about this process should be directed to [support@caate.net](mailto:support@caate.net) or to the CAATE office at 1- 844-GO-CAATE.



# ACCREDITATION CONFERENCE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Attending the 2015 CAATE Annual Accreditation Conference is a unique opportunity to learn about the standards, gain insight into the latest trends in accreditation and proposed changes to the standards, and learn techniques to be a better program administrator. Network with peers, connect with experienced accreditation volunteers and staff, and exchange ideas and best practices in program administration with professionals from around the country at this key CAATE event. The conference will address all levels of AT program administration; professional, post- professional, and residency, and will cater to multiple levels of program administration including Program Directors, Clinical Education Coordinators, Department Chairs, and Deans.

Current programming includes:

- **Plenary Sessions** - topics covering best practices and current issues surrounding accreditation of athletic training programs at the Professional, Post-Professional, and Residency levels.
- **Accreditation-level Focused Tracks** - Attendees will select their accreditation level for in-depth educational sessions
- **Breakout Sessions** to additionally customize your meeting and address topics relative to your own institution.

There will also be breakout sessions for program administrators to work on their own AT program documents together with help from CAATE volunteers and staff. Don't miss this exciting opportunity for all the administrators of your program to come together and work on the accreditation questions and concerns specific to your institution. More information and a tentative agenda are available on the CAATE website at <http://caate.net/presentations-workshops/>

**To register :** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2015-caate-accreditation-conference-registration-16958327815>

## WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE REGISTRATION FEE?

- Conference Registration
- Breakfast & Lunch on both days (Oct 16-17)
- Social (Friday, Oct 16) to be held at the USF Health Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation (CAMLs)
- Printed lecture/handout materials

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS:** available on the registration website.

HILTON TAMPA DOWNTOWN	
Hotel Address	211 North Tampa Street Tampa, Florida 33602
Phone Number	813-222-4963

## UPCOMING DATES

### JUNE 22-23

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS TO ATTEND SITE VISITOR TRAINING

### JUNE 23-26

NATA 66TH CLINICAL SYMPOSIA & AT EXPO

### JULY 1

SELF STUDY IS DUE FOR PROGRAMS WITH 15-16 SITE VISIT

### AUGUST 1

ANNUAL ACCREDITATION FEES INVOICED

### AUGUST 1

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE LEVEL OF DEGREE APPLICATIONS FOR 2015-16 ARE DUE

### AUGUST 13-15

CAATE COMMISSION MEETING