

Personal Philosophy

I have been involved in athletic training clinical care and education at nearly every level possible throughout my 27 year career. Each of my former positions has helped me to refine my leadership style and personal philosophy. I have learned that people need to feel valued and heard in order to achieve cohesiveness. Inevitably, there will be conversations and decisions that are unpopular. Thus, building an environment that makes people feel as if they can safely voice their opinions, ensuring processes are transparent and tempering judgment until all information is gathered are paramount for effective organizational leadership. I see the CAATE in the same light—the varied stakeholders need to feel valued and understood, and the processes need to be clear. Sometimes the decisions required of the leaders are between solutions that are better and BEST. The best answers are often sharpened by those individuals who disagree with us, but for whom we can trust their motivations and opinions. My philosophy involves seeking counsel from others who help me discern the best answers (even if the ultimate solution causes me to abandon my own initial thoughts). The future of athletic training education requires people who can process and differentiate between varied viewpoints and act in transparent and trustworthy ways. Constructing the aforementioned environment will build a future for athletic training that is progressive, transformative and innovative.

Rationale for Candidacy

As I look at the current make-up of the CAATE, I believe that the Commission needs diversity to ensure the ideas and challenges of the nearly 100 accredited smaller schools can be understood. I feel passionately that professional programs can coexist in liberal arts schools and still produce very strong and successful athletic training graduates. Therefore, I believe my background as a current division head and formerly as an athletic training program director and academic chair, gives me unique perspectives on the challenges of balancing the needs of large general education requirements and limited resources with accreditation Standards. My understanding, as an administrator, about assessment, outcomes, the business of higher education and the needs to provide positive products for various stakeholders could be highly valuable to the CAATE. In addition to my understanding of smaller liberal arts institutions, I also contribute significant experience with the CAATE. I spent nine years serving the CAATE in a variety of positions. During those years, I learned and helped to refine the processes whereby programs are deemed compliant or non-compliant with the CAATE accreditation Standards (i.e. with the Review and Site Visitor Committees). I would like to take this next step of involvement with the CAATE to share my perspectives and more acutely influence the continued transformation of athletic training education. My desire is to ensure that all stakeholders have equitable access to voice their opinions. For the aforementioned reasons, I feel as if I have the aptitude, attitude and motivation to be an effective candidate for the Commission. I would be humbled and honored to represent athletic training educators across the country and specifically those from smaller schools during the important discussions of the future of athletic training education.

Contributions to the Future Success of the Profession and CAATE

Throughout my career in higher education, I have learned to understand the divergent roles of accreditors. An accreditation body such as CAATE exists to define Standards for accreditation, ensure fair and consistent interpretation of Standards, articulate the required learning outcomes required for program curricula, respect institutional autonomy in the application of the curriculum, assure that all stakeholders are consulted and aware of decisions that impact programs, and influence the application of the discipline through enhancing the education process of future professionals. The CAATE is charged with looking not only at the needs of professionals currently but also ways in which the profession can legitimately evolve to meet future needs sometimes one or two decades in the future. Looking at the decision to move athletic training education to requiring a master's degree is one such transformative

decision. Instituting a new set of Standards is another way in which the CAATE is navigating through change for the future of athletic training. Finding ways to balance institutional autonomy with the various and often competing needs of stakeholders to comfortably chart a course for the future of the profession is sometimes a difficult task. It is hard sometimes to think about the landscape of our profession at a time that may be beyond our own careers. It is equally uncomfortable to think of moving in directions that might leave us personally behind because of the limits of our knowledge. I see many of these issues as challenges but not necessarily barriers to designing the athletic training education program of the future. Throughout the history of our profession we have met every uncomfortable challenge with robust opinions and interesting solutions. I see the make-up of the Commission needing input of stakeholders to continue that tradition.

Without a doubt, the future of the athletic training profession will be influenced by the CAATE. The globalization of the AT profession, content instruction requirements for accredited programs, becoming a larger player in national healthcare discussions are just some of the ways facing the CAATE and our profession. My diverse clinical and educational experiences allow me a unique perspective to ask questions and seek answers that will help map the pathway forward. The tagline, “transforming the profession through quality education” is relevant for now and visionary for the future. At every step in the process of change, Commissioners need to engage in positive discourse with people of varying backgrounds before such impactful decisions are made. All stakeholders, especially program directors, need to get involved in conversations to drive the direction of the profession. The CAATE must provide continued options for this dialogue. Additionally, when decisions are made, the CAATE must engage in measures to provide needed scaffolding for all constituents to meet the changing landscape. If selected as a Commissioner, I will be committed to transparent dialog with the varied stakeholders, I will focus on the current and future needs of the profession of athletic training and I will encourage strategies to help the various constituents’ transition as changes occur.