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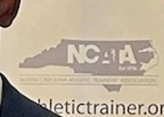
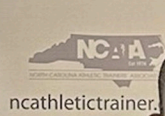
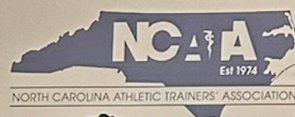
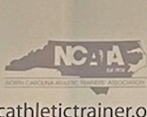
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Pictured: Rep Allen Buansi, Orange County with Kevin King and Nina Walker



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Committee Chairs

Please click [HERE](#) for a complete list of NCATA Committee Chairs.

Since 1974, the NCATA has served to support athletic trainers, to promote and advance the profession of athletic training in North Carolina. The NCATA is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association (District 3) and the National Athletic Trainers' Association.



President's Message

Nina Walker, MA, LAT, ATC

Happy Fall everyone,

Hope preseason was uneventful, for those who celebrate. It has been a great summer for the NCATA. We had a wonderful event at the Durham County Library and powerful screening of Concussion: the American Dream. Great hearing from our panel of experts about all that we are doing in the state to help protect student athletes. We looking forward to this upcoming year and initiatives that are coming up. Hard to believe that my term is up, but so excited to welcome Nancy Groh into the President seat. She has done such an outstanding job as VP and Secretary, we are so grateful she has stepped up to lead in March. We also welcome Courtney Phelps as our new Secretary!! So glad she will be able to start immediately with guidance from Tony Cordova in Florida. We wish him the best at his new job. We wish we are able to have an election, but these outstanding members were to only ones to step up. Hoping next year to have a competitive election for Treasurer and Vice President.

We are currently approaching NCATA honors and awards season. Please take time to nominate as deserving member for for one of our awards, scholarships and don't forget we take nominations for OATH grants too. We have such an amazing membership, let's honor some worthy members at the beach this Spring!

Keep an eye out for some openings for positions on our committees, we are looking for enthusiastic members to support the wonderful efforts of the association. In order to be on the executive board you need to be a committee member, so please consider getting involved so we have a bunch of candidates that are eligible to run for the EBOD!

Be well and continue to spread kindness,
Nina Walker



Program Development Committee

The NCATA Program Development Committee is now accepting abstracts for consideration for the 2026 Spring Symposium. Please complete the Google form found at <https://forms.gle/UVbbhg1o9zTDjLXm7> and the PDC will be in touch. We are looking to plan a program with continued depth and breadth of information and need your help to do so. Thank you for your interest and we look forward to learning with you at the beach!

5 REASONS TO PRESENT AT NCATA SPRING SYMPOSIUM

1. Professional recognition
2. Free registration for NCATA Spring Symposium
3. Additional 10 CEUs for primary presenters
4. Networking opportunities
5. Personal and professional development

OATH Program Update

Are you or someone you know struggling to pay for athletic training related costs? The OATH Program provides grants to athletic training students, new graduates, and certified and NCBATE licensed athletic trainers to aid in times of hardship. Grants are available for: 1) Athletic training students and new graduates experiencing difficulty paying for NATA or NCATA dues, or for NCATA symposium registration, and 2) Athletic trainers who are experiencing a hardship from a natural disaster (eg, flood, fire, etc.) or an unexpected professional budgetary issue. Please visit the [OATH Program website](#) for more information and links to apply for aid, or nominate a colleague or classmate for aid.



Scholarships Are Open!

Three \$1500 for current MSAT students

One \$500 for Elton Hawley scholarship for an undergraduate student accepted into a MSAT program.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

NCATA Critical Care Recognition

Help us recognize the heroic efforts of athletic trainers across North Carolina by sharing their story, or your own. If you've witnessed or been part of a critical care or life-saving event involving an athletic trainer, please use the form to share the details. Critical care includes immediate, specialized actions taken in life-threatening situations to stabilize a patient until advanced medical help arrives. These stories highlight the vital role ATs play in emergency care and may be featured in NCATA news and press releases—so please be mindful of patient privacy and obtain permission when appropriate.



From Public Relations

In May, Lindsey Schroeder and Taryn Strickland traveled to Atlanta for the Southeastern Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (SAAHP) annual conference. Information on the role and pathway of athletic training as a health profession was presented to pre-health college advisors, further promoting awareness of athletic training as a career option for students.

An Impactful Evening of Advocacy and Awareness in Durham, NC

We were proud to host a meaningful summer evening in Durham that brought together parents, community members, and key stakeholders for a powerful panel discussion and film screening focused on athlete safety. Designed to raise awareness, build partnerships, and advocate for the health and well-being of athletes ahead of the fall sports season, the event also welcomed a special guest from the North Carolina House of Representatives.

Featured Panelists and Voices Included:

- **Nina Walker**, President, North Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association
- **Janna Fonseca**, Director of Health, Safety & Wellness, NCHSAA
- **Dr. Johna Register-Mihalik**, Matthew Gfeller Center
- **Dr. Jeb Struder**, Korey Stringer Institute, along with a digital KSI Atlas Map showing athletic trainer coverage in NC: KSI Atlas Map
- **Dr. Kristen Kucera**, National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research (NCCSIR)
- **Steve DeVrieze & Dr. Kevin Carniero**, Neurotech Insight
- **John Miller**, Safer Sports
- Special video remarks from **Leigh Steinberg**, legendary sports agent and founder of the Leigh Steinberg Foundation

[Click Here](#) to continue reading



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Richard Eurillo, MHA, LAT, ATC, OPE-C
Director of Clinical Operations - EmmergeOrtho | Triad Region

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Clinical and Outreach Athletic Training Careers at
[EmmergeOrtho.com/Careers](https://emmergeortho.com/careers)**



North Carolina Leadership Institute

The North Carolina Leadership Institute gathered this summer on the campus of Appalachian State University for an inspiring event centered around the theme *"Leading Through Crisis."*

Participants had the opportunity to hear from a distinguished lineup of speakers, including:

- **Carrie Morgan**, Lecturer, College of Business at Appalachian State
- **Burke Jones**, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Newland
- **Dr. Neva Specht**, Provost, Appalachian State University
- **Angela Baldwin**, Chief Nurse Anesthetist, UNC Appalachian
- **Stacey Martin**, Owner, Stacey Martin, Inc.

Many of the speakers reflected on their experience during Hurricane Helene, of which we are coming upon the 1 year anniversary.

The leadership fellows shared lunch with students from ASU's Master of Athletic Training program before touring the state-of-the-art Leon Levine Health Sciences Building, led by Program Director Jennifer Howard. Scott Crothers, Senior Associate Athletics Director for Health, Well-Being, and Performance, then guided the group through the university's athletic medical facilities and football stadium.

The day concluded with a memorable dinner at the historic Dan'l Boone Inn, and several fellows extended their stay to enjoy a scenic hike around Price Lake in nearby Blowing Rock.

It was a day filled with learning, connection, and inspiration!

New Young Professional Award!

We are excited to introduce a new award this year! Nominations will be open soon for the NCATA Young Professional of the Year Award which will honor a young professional athletic trainer who has made a definitive impact on the athletic training profession and association at the various levels of organization (national, district, state). This is a meritorious award that recognizes contributions in service, professionalism, integrity, leadership and ability to inspire other professionals.

Award Requirements:

- Must be a certified member of the NCATA, MAATA and NATA
- Must be NCBATE Licensed
- Classified as a Young Professional (0-12 years of certification)
- Can be nominated by any member of the NCATA
- No self-nominations
- Nominations will be made to the Honors and Awards Representative of the NCATA
- Winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting

Check our website for the nomination form soon!


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Hall of Fame

Hall of Fame Nominations are now open with a deadline for nominations no later than October 15th. Criteria and nominating form can be found [HERE](#).

Honors and Awards

Our honors and awards committee is now accepting nominations for the following awards: Bill Griffin Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer, Athletic Training Service Award, and the Presidential Award. Award descriptions and criteria can be found [on our website](#). Nominations are due January 15, 2026.

Scholarships

Scholarship applications are open. The NCATA offers three, \$1500 scholarships to current athletic training students enrolled in an accredited program in the state of North Carolina. Applications can be found [HERE](#), and are due January 15, 2026.



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Please contact Eric Hall for additional information.

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