

TRAINERS ARE CHAMPIONS IN PROVIDING INVALUABLE, PATIENT-FOCUSED INJURY PREVENTION, CLINICAL CARE, RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION

AS CERTIFIED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ATHLETIC

TO HELP EVERYONE RETURN TO WORK, LIFE AND SPORT.

— CELEBRATING —
ATHLETIC  TRAINERS

CHAMPIONS IN HEALTH CARE

NATIONAL
ATHLETIC
TRAINING
MONTH

Champions in
Health Care

MARCH 2025



CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS AT [NATA.ORG/NATM](https://nata.org/natm).

NATA
NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION
HEALTH CARE FOR LIFE & SPORT

NCA  **A**

2025 Issue 1

Est 1974



Board of Directors

2025 Executive Committee

PRESIDENT

Nina Walker, MA, LAT, ATC

VICE-PRESIDENT

Nancy Groh, EdD, LAT, ATC

SECRETARY

Tony Cordova, MS, LAT, ATC

TREASURER

Jarrett Friday, ATC, CSCS

PAST PRESIDENT

James M. Bazluki, MAEd, LAT, ATC, EMT

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

Hello Colleagues,

Wow, still thinking of the amazing time we all had together at the symposium. The content was outstanding as well as so many opportunities to get to meet over 70 students and our wonderful membership. Really appreciate all the hard work of our volunteers. There are so many people that helped make this happen. We are so grateful to Novant for the incredible space and their sponsorship of the event. Also special thanks to our other platinum sponsors of EmergeOrtho and Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist.

Congrats to our newest members of the 2025 NCATA Hall of Fame, Ashley Long and Jon Schnier. Please take a look at their incredible accomplishments at our website.

Congrats to all of our award winners as well. They all so deserving of their recognition. It was so fun getting to recognize Kevin Jones and Crystal Shirk for their incredible work during Hurricane Helenes' post storm efforts. It makes me so proud as a president seeing the outstanding work of our members.

We are continuing to expand our efforts with the OATH grant by having nominations available and a place to donate items to those who need them. Please consider nominating deserving students and certified members. We will also be expanding our Critical Care Collective to help identify, support and research critical and catastrophic injuries and providers of care.

There are tons of amazing things done by our committees. Please take a look at our [Business meeting slide show](#). If you are interested in joining our volunteer family, please reach out to our committee chairs and fill out our volunteer interest form on our website.

Please enjoy the rest of your spring. Hope to see you at MAATA's or NATA's this summer.

Sincerely
Nina Walker

NCATA Leadership Institute

The NCATA Leadership Institute has accepted and hosted its 6th class of fellows for the 2025-2027 cohort. The group will meet 5 times throughout the year, both virtually and in person.

Leadership Institute fellows had their first meeting on Friday, March 7th in conjunction with the NCATA Spring Symposium. Speakers included Colleen Byers, JD, MBA with a presentation and group activity titled Having Difficult Conversations and Cricket Lane, PhD hosting an interactive session titled Personality and Communication Styles of the DiSC Assessment. Other guest speakers included Dr. Jay Scifers, Dean and Associate Provost at Moravian University and Nina Walker, president of the NCATA.

The new class of fellows includes: Thomas Chao, Tyler DePew, Reece Hayes, Mijon Knight, Hannah McGowan, Logan Ninos, Nick Seiler, Amber Seymour, Rebecca Shomo, Kou Yang, and Grant Yarbrough.



GET YOUR WORD OUT!

Advertise with the NCATA

The NCATA is now offering Advertising space in our Quarterly Newsletter. Our newsletter is electronically distributed to all NCATA members. You will be asked to submit 300 dpi jpg or high resolution PDF.

Please contact Eric Hall for additional information.

SINGLE ISSUE

Full Page 8.5" x 11"	\$100
Half Page 8.5" x 5.25"	\$75
Quarter Page 4" x 5.25"	\$60

FULL YEAR (TWO ISSUES)

Full Page 8.5" x 11"	\$200
Half Page 8.5" x 5.25"	\$150
Quarter Page 4" x 5.25"	\$120



N:

We're Hiring

Join Team Aubergine!

We create a healthier future and bring remarkable experiences to life.

If you're looking for meaningful healthcare jobs that empower you to truly make a difference in peoples' lives, you've come to the right place. At Novant Health, we are relentless in our pursuit to deliver the best care to our communities.

We are actively recruiting for Full-Time and PRN Athletic Trainers in the Charlotte and Winston Salem regions.

Scan the QR Code and apply today!



Making healthcare remarkable

**N: NOVANT
HEALTH**

NCATA Hall of Fame Class of 2025

Ashley Long PhD, LAT, ATC, CBIS

A leader, educator, researcher, and clinician, Dr. Long has advanced sports medicine, concussion management, and athlete well-being through her extensive career. As the founder of the NCATA Leadership Institute, she has shaped the profession through mentorship, advocacy, and key leadership roles in NCATA and NATA. Her research on concussion care and mental health has significantly improved athlete safety and clinical practice. Dr. Long's dedication to evidence-based practice and education has impacted countless professionals and student-athletes. NCATA is honored to recognize her legacy with this well-deserved induction.



Jon Schner, LAT, ATC

With over 30 years at Greensboro Day School, Jon has advanced sports medicine policies and strengthened athletic training in North Carolina Independent Schools. As Director of Health & Safety for the NCISAA, he led the creation of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, driving new policies and expanded athletic trainer coverage. His leadership as NCATA Independent School Representative has improved advocacy and representation statewide. A mentor, educator, and safety leader, Jon has shaped countless careers and enhanced athlete care. NCATA is honored to recognize his lasting impact with this Hall of Fame induction.





EmergeOrtho

Your Career Path to Success

“From working as a new graduate AT at Grimsley High School to leading clinical operations in the Triad Region, I’ve had the opportunity to expand my skills, build strong relationships, and make a lasting impact in orthopedic care - all within the same organization.

EmergeOrtho has supported my professional growth every step of the way, proving that with hard work and passion, athletic trainers can achieve incredible career advancement. If you're looking for a place to grow, thrive, and lead, this is it!”

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

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



NCATA Award Winners

Athletic Trainer Service and Presidential Awards



The **Athletic Trainer Service Award** was presented to **Dr. Lindsey Schroeder, Ed.D, LAT, ATC Associate Professor and Program Coordinator of UNCW in Wilmington, NC.** Her dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the athletic training profession make her an exemplary candidate for this prestigious recognition. (pictured left)

The **Athletic Trainer Service Award** was presented to **John Marshall, LAT, ATC, Associate Head Athletic Trainer, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.** His dedication to both clinical excellence and mentorship ensures that the department maintains a high standard of care and continues to evolve. (pictured right)



The **Athletic Trainer Service Award** was presented to **Sarah Bell, LAT, ATC, Athletic Trainer of C.E. Jordan High School in Durham, NC.** Her commitment extends beyond the boundaries of her expertise; when faced with challenges outside her domain, she proactively seeks out the right resources to ensure comprehensive support for the students. (pictured left)



The **Presidential Award** was presented to **Dr. Bryan Bunn MD, CAQSM of ECU Health Chowan Hospital** who has consistently advocated for the advancement and recognition of athletic trainers, demonstrating a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the field. (pictured right)



The **Presidential Award** was presented to **Lindsey Braddock MS, LAT, ATC of Murphy Waiver Orthopedic Specialists, Page High School in Greensboro, NC** who has been an inaugural member of the NCATA Critical Care Collective where she has truly been the heart of the Collective, aiding for so many who were and are in need. (pictured bottom left)



The **Presidential Award** was presented to **Michael Essa DPT, MA, ATC of Duke Health** for his dedication to creating a supportive and effective healthcare environment has had a profound impact on the schools he partners with and the professionals he works alongside. (pictured bottom right)



NCATA Award Winners Scholarships

The **Presidential Scholarship for Leadership** was presented to **Kristin Hogan**, at **University of North Carolina Charlotte**.

The **Pioneer Scholarship of Service** was presented to **Rachel Schultz**, at **University of North Carolina Charlotte**.
The **Hall of Fame Scholarship for Academic Excellence** was presented to **Gabrielle Villa**, at **Western Carolina University**.

Lifesaver Recognition:

2025 Lifesaver Recognition Award was presented to **Courtney Phelps, John A. Holmes High School**. During the first play of the game, a junior varsity football player received a significant hit. He was assisted off the field, but his condition quickly declined. The athlete was experiencing severe abdominal pain and was unable to find relief. Due to the pain, Courtney was unable to palpate his abdomen and began monitoring his vital signs, suspecting internal bleeding. Within minutes of the impact, his heart rate increased, his blood pressure dropped, his skin became pale, and he expressed feeling cold. Courtney activated the Emergency system, and the athlete was transported to the local hospital. A CT scan confirmed a Grade 5 spleen rupture and a Grade 4 kidney rupture. He was then airlifted to the trauma center in Greenville and was released from the ICU four days later. The athlete has since been cleared to return to non-contact sports and is expected to return to football in the fall.

2025 Lifesaver Recognition Award was presented to **Eric Hall, Cary High School**. In the spring of 2023, Cary High School's athletic trainer, Eric Hall accurately identified a baseball player suffering from an anaphylactic reaction after mistakenly ingesting peanuts before a baseball game. The athlete was successfully treated with the school's emergency EpiPen when swelling of this airway was noted.



DRY NEEDLING: A TOOL FOR THE MOVEMENT SYSTEM, INTRO SERIES

@ **Methodist University**
Fayetteville, NC



Course 1, 31 May - 1 June
Course 2, 19 - 20 July



7 hrs Home Study
20 hrs Live per Course
(54 hrs Total)



BOC ATC



20% off with Code
"MUDPT"

COURSE SERIES DESCRIPTION

Dry Needling: A Tool for the Movement System, Intro Series are two hybrid courses delivered via home study, lecture, and extensive hands-on lab/practical using a regional approach in order to facilitate participant learning. The purpose of this course series is to learn the competencies required to perform basic dry needling techniques in clinical practice. A heavy focus is placed on the integration of these techniques using clinical reasoning.

COURSE SERIES SCHEDULE

- Live in-person each course, 7:30AM - 6:30PM Sat & Sun
- Self-paced home study sent 30 days prior to each course

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.doubleeeducation.com

Public Relations

Expanding Awareness: Promoting Athletic Training Careers to the Next Generation

The Public Relations Committee is committed to increasing awareness and understanding of the athletic training profession among young people. As part of this initiative, we have recently engaged with key educational groups across the state and beyond:

December: We hosted a well-attended webinar for the Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA), titled Exploring Careers in Athletic Training: Opportunities, Education, and Professional Pathways. This session provided valuable insights into the profession and was recorded for future use by IECA members.

February: We presented to high school Career Development Coordinators in the Wake County Public School System, equipping them with information to guide students interested in athletic training. Moving forward, we plan to expand these efforts to other large school districts across North Carolina.

March: The PR Committee delivered a presentation at the North Carolina Career Development Association's annual conference, focusing on The Role and Pathway of Athletic Training in Career Counseling. This session emphasized how career advisors can introduce students to the diverse opportunities within the field. (pictured right)

On March 22, during the NC Courage home opener, Wake County Public Schools' Certified Athletic Trainers were recognized for their dedication and commitment to student-athlete health and safety. As part of National Athletic Training Month (NATM), the halftime ceremony celebrated these healthcare professionals who work tirelessly behind the scenes to provide injury prevention, emergency care, treatment, and rehabilitation.

Adding to the night's recognition of athletic trainers, Brandi Schwane, athletic trainer for UNC Women's Soccer, performed the opening coin toss in honor



of NATM. Schwane's presence was especially fitting, as UNC Women's Soccer recently secured the 2024 National Championship, further showcasing the impact of dedicated sports medicine professionals in collegiate athletics.

With this year's NATM theme, "Champions in Healthcare," the recognition highlighted the vital role athletic trainers play in keeping student-athletes safe and performing at their best. The NC Courage crowd showed their appreciation with a resounding ovation as these unsung heroes took center stage.

NCATA is proud to see these dedicated professionals

honored for their invaluable contributions to athletics and healthcare in our community!

May: Looking ahead, the PR Committee will travel to Atlanta for the Southeastern Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (SAAHP) annual conference. There, we will present on this topic and distribute materials to pre-health college advisors, further promoting awareness of athletic training as a career option for students pursuing health professions.

By fostering these connections and providing valuable resources, we aim to inspire and support the next generation of athletic trainers. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue this important work!

Policy, Procedure, & Practice in Athletic Safety

November: At the North Carolina School Board Association annual conference, members of the PR committee presented "Policy, Procedure, & Practice: Keeping Your Athletes Safe While Keeping Your School Out of the Courtroom." Attendees gained

insights into aligning school practices with North Carolina Board of Education (NCBOE) and North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) guidelines. The session also provided tools to critically assess district schools' adherence to established policies and procedures. Additionally, participants explored strategies for collaborating with Athletic Directors (ADs), Athletic Trainers (ATs), and First Responders (FRs) to enhance safety protocols and compliance measures.



NCATA Practice Setting Committee

The NCATA Practice Setting committee has been working on several projects this year! We are currently restructuring our committee to optimize our committee and hear the voices of all our athletic training settings and their needs. We will have each setting as its own sub-committee and a sub-committee chair member to voice the needs of each setting. Be on the lookout on the committee page as we work to update our committee page on the NCATA website.

We will be working on a proposal for a project with our CAATE programs here in North Carolina to showcase all of our settings. We will look to show soon to be graduating athletic trainer students all the settings out there including all the different aspects within each setting. More to come as we collectively work on this project.

We have also started scheduling out a Day in the Life of a ____ athletic trainer, social media postings. We will work in conjunction with the Public Relations Committee to spread the word as each of our settings take a turn to highlight a day in the life of their setting. Currently working with our professional settings group, so stay tuned and look for it on the NCATA social media pages!

Program Development

What a great weekend in Winston-Salem, NC at the 48th NCATA Annual Symposium held March 7-9, 2025. The PDC is grateful to all of the speakers who shared their expertise with attendees and made the weekend such a success. There were a lot of first time speakers and each provided a unique voice and insight to both reinforce, challenge, and elevate practice. It is not too early to start planning to present or attend next year! We look forward to seeing you in Wrightsville Beach, NC next spring!!

All requests for the NCATA Annual Meeting and Educational Symposium Continuing Education (CE) Certificates earned, but not received, must be made in writing by email to, ncatasymposium@gmail.com prior to May 15 of the symposium year. Any requests made after May 15 for the 2025 NCATA Educational Symposium CE Certificates earned but not received, will be assessed a \$25.00 fee paid via personal check or Zelle transaction for each request. After June 30, no CE certificates will be issued.



DISLOTECH
Joint Reduction Training Models

Shoulder and Finger Reduction Trainers

- Hands-on training for management of humeral and phalanx dislocations
- Fidelic range of motion in reduced and dislocated states
- Simulate multiple reduction techniques
- Anatomical landmarks for realistic palpation

Anterior and posterior

Dorsal Volar Lateral

Practice in the classroom
Perform in the field

For more information contact us at dislotech@lunababs.us

dislotech.com  MADE IN USA

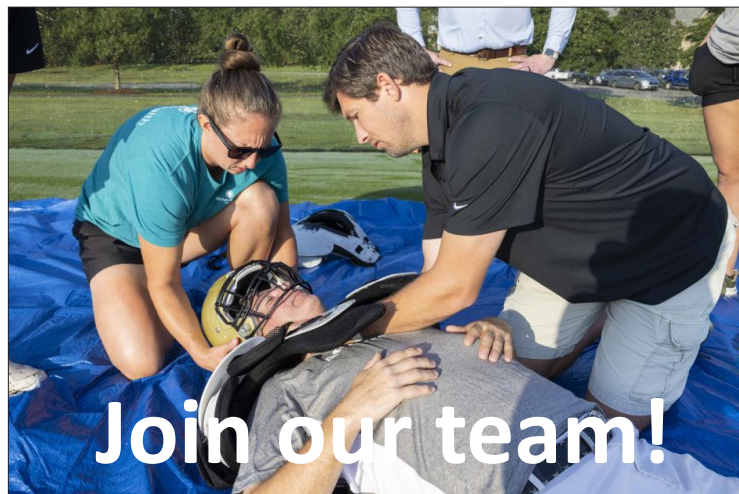


DAT or DAT-MBA
Advance your career,
your way.

MORAVIAN
 UNIVERSITY

Young Professionals Committee

The Young Professionals Committee hosted a successful social for the young professionals and MSAT students at this year's annual symposium. This was a great opportunity for other young professionals and students from throughout the state to meet. We are in the process of creating a Young Professional of the Year award to be presented at future NCATA Annual Symposiums. Be on the lookout for more information on this as well as future events for this year!



The Atrium Health Athletic Training programs are looking for licensed athletic trainers to fill immediate positions.

All new athletic trainers will receive a sign-on bonus and relocation!

To apply, scan the QR Code or visit Job Search Results (careers.atriumhealth.org).



N C A T A



Spring Considerations

HEART



**Compress
& Shock**
Foundation

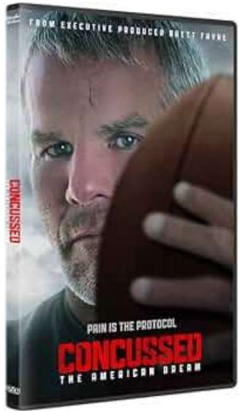
Compression and Shock Foundation:
<https://www.compressandshock.org/>

Participated at the Spring Symposium AED access Programs

Our mission is to bring free and equitable access to CPR and AED education to all communities with a specific dedication to those communities most adversely affected by cardiac arrest due to race, ethnicity, primary language, or access to healthcare education.

Pulse Point:

Please continue to find AEDs in your community and register



HEAD

Movie Screening:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FW8U3wD8c94>

Concussed: The American Dream

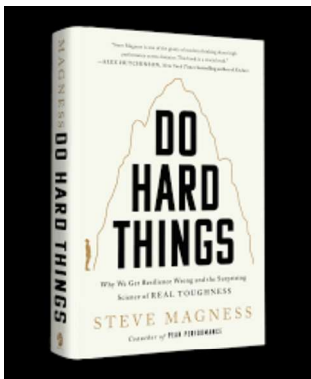
Join us. More details to come!

BOOK

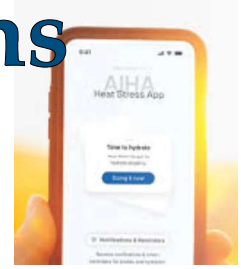
Do Hard Things

Author: Steve Magness

Do Hard Things is an incredibly deep and completely new approach that examines why and how people overcome the toughest situations



HEAT



Heat Stress App:

<https://synergist.aiha.org/20240607-heat-stress-mobile-app>

ECU researchers co-developed a free mobile heat stress mobile app to help workers, employers and safety professionals address the increased risk of heat illnesses posed by rising temperatures.

Heat safety experts from the American Industrial Hygiene Association Thermal Stress Working Group through a partnership with ECU state that the app allows users to enter information such as location and workload that factor into their overall heat stress risk assessment.

RESOURCES

State Employees Association of North Carolina:

<https://seanc.org>

State of North Carolina Employees Awareness of benefit opportunities Benefits

Members have access to savings from restaurants to state attractions to hotels.
seanc.org/discounts

Amenity member perks (\$4,500+ in per member savings)
seanc.abenity.com/GO

Also, The SEANC View Podcast provides insight for state employees

NCATA Spring Considerations

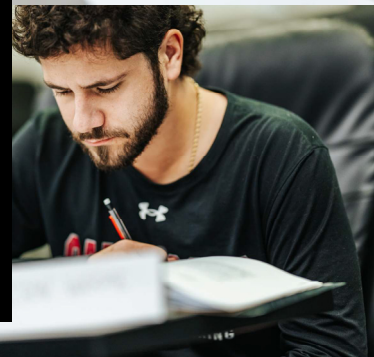


ACES preparatory workshop

The Athletic Training Student Prosperity Initiative

Sponsored BOC Prep Course
Please mark your calendars for pending BOC Prep course, September 13th and 14th, at the Campus of UNC Charlotte.

More details to come. For interest, Contact Kevin King, kkingatc@gmail.com



COPA Newsletter

We are always looking for committee volunteers to work with COPA. We are excited for our work in 2025 and welcome our new committee members. COPA focuses on increasing awareness, demonstrating the value of athletic training, practice advancement, governmental affairs, third party reimbursement, and other issues to help advance the profession of athletic training.

Please contact Dan Duffy or Ashley Long with any questions or if you have any interest in learning more about COPA.

Danduffyatc@aol.com
Ashleylong111@gmail.com

If you have any questions regarding licensure questions please feel free to reach out to Paola Learoyd Gibbs, Executive Director
executivedirector@ncbate.org

NCBATE BOARD MEMBERS

Janna Fonseca, LAT, Chair
 Durham, NC
jfonseca15@gmail.com

Amanda Beatty, LAT
 Durham, NC
amanda.beatty@duke.edu

Taylor Guardalabene, LAT
 Cornelius, NC
tguardalabene@yahoo.com

Tyler Moos, LAT
 Burlington, NC
tmoos@elon.edu



Living His Dream Job

A passion for sports and an injury playing high school football drew Andy to the career of Athletic Trainer. Working at the high school level became his sole focus. Today, Andy is Living His Dream Job as the Certified Athletic Trainer for South Florence High School. "Often, athletes are at their lowest point when injuries keep them from the sports they love," said Andy. "Being part of an athlete's return to play is so rewarding."

Visit jobs.mcleodhealth.org to see available positions and start living your dream.

For more information contact:
Jennifer.Hedinger@mcleodhealth.org
Rebekkah.Chilton@mcleodhealth.org

McLeod Health
Jobs.McLeodHealth.org



Instagram
 ncathletictrainers



@NCATA1974



Find us on
Facebook

Go to the [NCATA Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NCATA) page

Thank You Corporate Sponsors

The North Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association would like to thank the following 2025 corporate sponsors.

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE

