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Hello, my name is Nicky Cattano and I am running for my second term for the Southeastern Region representative position on the PATS Executive Board. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a member on the executive board. I have learned so much and had the privilege of meeting so many wonderful people. If elected, I will continue to bring enthusiasm and passion to letting all of PATS know about the great things going on within the region as well as helping to get the southeastern region involved. My primary goal is and has been to serve as a resource and advocate for members within the southeastern region. I would like to let the entire state know of the wonderful things occurring within our region, and will make it my mission to be an advocate for the profession. We have some outstanding county delegates who have had fantastic ideas about engaging PATS members, and am excited by the energy and commitment that they bring.

We have held free regional continuing education events, and am excited to have created a good relationship with our partner Go4Ellis. We have had some great ideas on future programming and I want to continue to offer events, and to have a minimum of one event held in each county by the end of my term. After speaking with some members, I also would like to shift the offerings to provide more “hands-on” information that would allow for immediate clinical application. I want to educate PATS members, keep them informed, and bring their concerns to the executive board. Lastly, I can only hope to “pay it forward” and try to use my passion to inspire others to become more involved, as others have been able to do for me.

Regional representatives help to make others aware of the outstanding things going on by professionals and students within the respective region, as well as promote involvement by members within the region. There are so many great programs and athletic trainers within our region, that I would be honored to help let others know about. PATS is one of the best state organizations nationwide, and I am excited about this opportunity.

I currently work at West Chester University (WCU) in a dual role as an associate professor and clinical athletic trainer for the WCU basketball teams. Basketball has influenced many of my experiences, as I was a 4 year basketball athlete from 1997-2001 and earned my undergraduate degree in Exercise and Sport Science from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in May 2001. As an athlete, I had my first interactions with an athletic trainer, and was motivated to pursue athletic training as a profession. I completed the necessary requirements in undergrad through the internship route to become eligible to sit for the exam to become a certified athletic trainer. Once certified, I continued my graduate education at West Chester University with a graduate assistant position. Becoming involved in supervising undergraduate students from an accredited program was an eye-opening and inspiring experience. I became passionate about athletic training education and serving as a preceptor when I was a Graduate Assistant at West

Chester University from 2002-2004 while earning my Master's in Public Health. I was fortunate to obtain a temporary faculty position here after completion of my MPH, and I have known ever since 2002 that this was the role and institution where I wanted to have a career.

My desire to stay at WCU in this dual role lead me to pursue my Ph.D. in Kinesiology from Temple University. I worked on my PhD (2006-2014) while having a full-time faculty position at West Chester University serving in a dual role in the classroom and clinical settings. It is through my experiences as a clinician with the basketball teams that I became passionate about my line of research investigating the long-term effects of knee injuries that we commonly see. I became a certified phlebotomist, have presented at conferences, and published within journals through my research line. I successfully completed my dissertation titled "Biomarker Response After an Acute Running Bout in Participants with and without an Acute Knee Injury History" and earned my PhD in December 2014.

I have been a PATS and NATA member since 2002. I have had the honor of meeting many people along the way who have become mentors and friends. I was inspired to get initially get involved in PATS as a member of the convention committee and co-chair for programming (2012-2017). This initial involvement made me realize the passion I had for being involved. I continued to become more involved in PATS and became a member of the Technology committee (2013-2017), accepted a chair position of the College/University Committee (2014-2016), and became a member of the Educators committee (2015-2018). I have also had the distinct privilege of being involved in hosting two PATS Student Symposiums (2008 & 2016) here at WCU. At the regional and national levels, I have served as an annual meeting abstract reviewer since 2014.

My passion for service has continued within my research line where I am a member of several organizations and serve on working/task groups: Osteoarthritis Research Society International member, Arthritis Foundation member, Athletic Trainer's Osteoarthritis Consortium (ATOAC; 2012-current), ATOAC Resources to Raise Awareness Working group member (2015-current), Osteoarthritis Action Alliance (OAA) Injury Prevention working group member (2012-current), OAA National Research Priorities for Prevention of OA task group chair (2016-current), and Penn Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders affiliate member (2012-current).

I have been involved in many committees for PATS, and am passionate about the mission, pride, and value of being a PATS member. I think the society is on a very positive path, and would like to continue to help PATS lead the nation and our profession in its mission.

I am married with two crazy Labrador dogs. I love to workout, still enjoy basketball (March Madness is my favorite time of year), and am a beach bum at heart. Most people would describe me as being driven, attentive to detail, passionate, and energetic. I hope to be able to direct these qualities to serving as the Southeast Regional Representative. I thank you for your time and consideration.