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I am truly honored and humbled to be considered as a candidate for the PATS President-Elect position, a position that I hold in a high regard. I view the President-Elect position as one that provides an opportunity to create initiatives and resources for the issues, concerns and ideas of athletic trainers in Pennsylvania. I enthusiastically accept the nomination as I firmly believe in service to our profession and society members through the promotion of athletic training. I have had the pleasure of serving under outstanding leaders and mentors as the Southwest Representative for the past 3 years and as a PATS ethics committee member since 2006. Serving as the Southwest representative has been exciting and inspiring and has allowed me to get a firm grasp on the concerns of our members and the vision and direction of our Society. Additionally, this role has allowed me to see just how crucial open conversation among the regional reps and the President(s) is to ensuring that all voices across the State are heard. I have learned and value the level of passion and commitment that our board members have to our profession. PATS continues to be a trailblazer for State Athletic Training Associations, often setting the bar that other associations strive to achieve. This is a testament to the forward thinking and enthusiasm of our members which has energized me professionally and personally.

My athletic training world came "full circle" when I returned to my alma mater Cal U in 2008 as an assistant professor and athletic trainer. I have worked clinically with our women's basketball team since my arrival and am a faculty member of the graduate and professional athletic training programs. Prior to that, I earned a Bachelor's degree from Cal U and moved to Washington, DC to obtain my Master of Science in Clinical Exercise Physiology at The George Washington University while working as an athletic trainer at Falls Church High School and subsequently at the Catholic University of America. I eventually returned "home" to attend the University of Pittsburgh where I earned a doctoral degree in exercise physiology. While at Pitt I worked as a per diem AT at UPMC and also as a graduate assistant with Pitt Softball and Cheerleading. I later held positions at the University of Akron and Slippery Rock University leading to my current position at Cal U. I became involved with PATS when I began volunteering on the Ethics Committee in 2006 and later became a member of the Public Relations Committee. Regionally I am a member of the District 2 Ethics Committee and at the national level I volunteer as a session moderator and proposal reviewer for the annual meeting. My research and athletic training interests focus on non-contact ACL injuries and pediatric sports medicine. I have been fortunate to present at the NATA Clinical Symposium and ACL Research Retreat on these topics as well as attend the Youth Sports Safety Summit for the past two years, which is an incredible event and learning experience for those interested in youth sports.

I have focused on the transparency between the board and our members as well as supporting our regions needs and concerns as they arise, this is a practice that I believe to be critical and will continue at the presidential level. I welcome an opportunity to continue to serve the membership in an expanded role and am excited to contribute to and introduce initiatives in three distinct areas: 1. third party reimbursement, 2. youth/community based athletic healthcare, and 3. the opiate crisis. Investigating third party reimbursement for athletic trainers has been an overwhelming request from our membership and the board has begun taking steps to begin to examine the benefits and challenges associated. This will be a long and arduous task, but essential to remain relevant in the healthcare arena. Secondly, the explosion of youth and community based athletics is a relatively untapped market for athletic trainers. I envision a formal program to educate youth sports governing bodies, coaches, and parents on the essential value of an athletic trainer and strategies for inclusion at that level. Lastly, the opiate addiction crisis is sobering statistically, especially when hearing stories of "it started when he/she got hurt playing...". As athletic trainers, we are the gate keepers, we are the confidants and often we "see" the signs that others don't. AT's are a first line of defense in the downward spiral of addiction and a resource for prevention, recognition and intervention. I plan to organize resources such as training and education for all athletic trainers.

On a personal note, I have been married to my husband Dan for 15 years and currently reside in the West Allegheny School District. We have 1 son, Jackson, who is an aspiring aeronautical engineer, and a four-legged "daughter" named Jersey (for Springsteen's "Jersey Girl" which was Jackson's lullaby). Additionally, in 2011 I founded the Pittsburgh chapter of the National Canine Cancer Foundation, a national research funding non-profit, after losing our sweet Lab to histiocytic sarcoma. In my spare time (ha, I am an athletic trainer!) I enjoy reading and have been known to whip up quite the SWPA Italian cookie table! I thank you for your time, consideration and support and look forward to serving you, the members of the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Society.