

BOC CERTUPDATE

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New Heights:

Launch of the
International
Arrangement

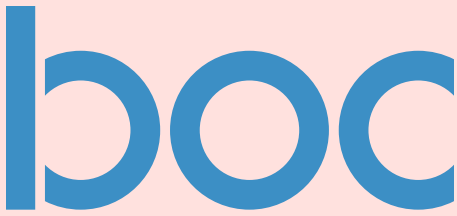


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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Patrick Sexton, EdD, LAT, ATC

Board Members Honored

Congratulations to BOC board members Mike Carroll MEd, LAT, ATC, Neil Curtis, EdD, LAT, ATC, Christina Evers, EdD, AT, ATC and Douglas Gregory, MD on recent honors. Their honors are listed below.

- Athletic Trainer Director Mike Carroll MEd, LAT, ATC was inducted into the Texas State Athletic Trainers' Association (TSATA) Hall of Fame.
- Athletic Trainer Director Neil Curtis, EdD, LAT, ATC was inducted into the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS) Hall of Fame.
- Athletic Trainer Director Appointee Christina Evers, EdD, AT, ATC was inducted into the Michigan Athletic Trainers' Society (MATS) Hall of Fame.
- Physician Director Douglas Gregory, MD was nominated by the Virginia High School League and appointed to serve as a member of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

As I approach the end of my term as BOC board president, it's easy to be nostalgic and look back, but I'd rather direct my view forward. Assessing all that has been accomplished in the past two years, I see a very bright future ahead for our profession. As a team, the BOC has made headway on many key strategic priorities, pushing the envelope while not compromising the high standards expected of our profession. Thanks to the contributions of our many volunteers, partners and staff, we have initiated several major initiatives in 2021.

Our first-ever board-certified specialty credential, the Board Certified Specialist in Orthopedics (BCS-O), exam launched this fall and will continue to move our profession forward with the first exam administration in October. This was a major effort, 10 years in the making, and we are proud to welcome our first BCS-O credential holders! The BOC will continue to reach those in the profession whose education and experience align with this advanced credential and promote the value of the BCS-O and ATC® credentials to employers and potential employers of Athletic Trainers (ATs). This is another step in elevating the role and level of recognition of ATs within health care.

Since the development of our Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Advocacy Strategies (IDEAS) Task Force was formed last November, I have had the pleasure of working with this amazing and passionate group of ATs. The task force has worked tirelessly developing strategic initiatives within the areas of the BOC exam, continuing education, the athletic training profession, and BOC administration and operations.

I'm also thrilled that our board approved moving IDEAS from a temporary task force to full committee status. The IDEAS Committee, will take the task force's work and bring it to life. Cathy Ortega, EdD, PT, ATC, OCS and Carla R. Gilson, MA, AT, LAT, CES, have been appointed as co-chairs of the new committee, supported by a strong core of high-energy volunteers.

On the international front, the challenges of globalization have created new opportunities for the BOC to be bold in shaping the future of athletic training and therapy credentialing in markets abroad. You can learn more about the new International Arrangement (IA), which launched this summer, and its impact on our profession on [page 6](#).

In June, we unveiled a new brand for the BOC. This new bold and modern look provides the perfect vision of what lies ahead for athletic training and the BOC. The new branding has been carried through to a newly configured BOC website, as well as integrated into all communication tools, publications and administrative facets.

In addition, BOC360, the portal that houses candidate, AT and BOC Approved Provider profiles, was launched, replacing the old BOC Central. This platform includes enhanced capabilities for information and process management, as well as communication. The goal of easing processes for ATs and providing an elevated user experience will be evident as we wrap up this recertification year. As a reminder when submitting continuing education credits, Evidence Based Practice (EBP) is still a requirement for the current certification period, which ends Dec. 31, 2021. Beginning in 2022, BOC Approved Providers will be seamlessly incorporating EBP principles into all Category A programs.

Advancing our profession sometimes requires change, and change can be uncomfortable. As we opened an open comment period for the proposed Continuing Professional Certification (CPC) conceptual framework, we received a storm of feedback communicating frustration about current dynamics of our profession related to workloads, salaries, professional recognition and certification requirements. We also heard that the BOC is not listening, but I can tell you that we are listening to your perspectives. We definitely heard you, positive and negative, and we genuinely appreciate your feedback and have taken it to heart.

I would like to stress that the CPC conceptual framework presented during the open comment period is not a done deal – that’s why we asked for input from you, our stakeholders. We’ve assimilated all feedback from the open comment phase and will use it to work on the ongoing development of the CPC framework. Look for more to come in the future; more opportunities to participate and more opportunities to provide your feedback

Moving forward I know I leave the organization in great hands. The passion, competency and integrity of René Revis Shingles, PhD, AT, ATC will surely push us even harder to achieve things we once thought were out of reach. René, currently serving as vice president, will step into the role of president at the beginning of 2022. René will be the first African American President of the BOC Board of Directors.

Your BOC board is a strong, highly qualified, enthusiastic team from a variety of practice settings and they are clearly invested in the work of the BOC and the future of our profession. As Douglas Gregory, MD, our physician director on the board ends his final term I want to take a moment to acknowledge his significant contributions and say thank you to him for his service to the BOC. The work of our BOC

staff and volunteers never wavers. They are dedicated, consistent and strong in their support of our current and future credential holders, your patients, the public and all of the stakeholders we serve.

As I sign off, a big thanks to the board, René, all volunteers, CEO Anne Minton and the dedicated BOC staff. In addition, our work with our Strategic Alliance partners keeps our allied organizations swimming in the same direction. As Abraham Lincoln is credited with saying “the best way to predict the future is to create it” and I know that everyone at or associated with the BOC will continue to work to create the best future for our profession.

With deep appreciation,
Patrick Sexton

IDEAS Task Force: Initiatives Move Forward, IDEAS Committee Formed

The Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Advocacy Strategies Task Force (IDEAS), headed by co-chairs Carla R. Gilson, MA, AT, LAT, CES and Cathy Ortega, EdD, PT, ATC, OCS has continued to support the BOC’s Strategic Plan priority of Advocacy since its formation in November 2020. The groundwork of IDEAS will move forward permanently, as the BOC Board of Directors approved the formation of an IDEAS Committee which will take the foundational work of the task force and bring it to life. Ortega and Gilson will lead this new committee as co-chairs, supported by a strong core of high-energy volunteers.

The IDEAS Committee has begun work on defined strategic initiatives focused within the areas of the BOC exam, continuing education, the athletic training profession, BOC administration and operations. Action items within a detailed work plan, approved by the BOC board, will guide implementation of these efforts over the next several years.

Early projects the committee is undertaking include defining guidelines and reviewing processes that will ensure that practices, processes, documents and communications meet defined levels of being IDEAS reflective and/or IDEAS compliant, based on the intention of each activity.

With the launch of the BOC360 portal for Athletic Trainers (ATs), data collection for demographics related to ethnicity and gender information, disability status and other background details has been expanded. As the preeminent source of data collection for ATs, the BOC will continually analyze and utilize this new collection of robust demographic information to serve the profession, assisting with research and analysis of the AT population. With this new data, the BOC will assess issues such as diversity within the athletic training profession.

The committee will collaborate with BOC staff on an ongoing basis to support initiatives for recruitment and leadership development of future volunteers and staff. In addition, the committee will work with diversity, equity, inclusion groups within our Strategic Alliance partners to create consistent definitions and terms around IDEAS. The committee’s work with our strategic partners will align IDEAS efforts and allow us to communicate as a profession.

For more information on IDEAS, check out “Meet the BOC Volunteers” featuring co-chairs Gilson and Ortega on [pages 20-21](#).

New Heights:



The BOC announced the launch of the new International Arrangement (IA) for the athletic training and therapy profession this summer. The IA for the profession of athletic training and therapy – a unique health care niche - will play a key role in optimizing care, injury prevention, rehabilitation and supporting the rights of patients and the public to achieve their potential to live well. It ensures comparable best practices, quality education and professional standards. The arrangement provides opportunities for those in the profession to expand their reach globally, and ultimately grow the profession worldwide over time. Athletic Trainers (ATs), Athletic Therapists and Sport Rehabilitators can now be mobile on a global scale by creating a pathway to challenge each other's credentialing exam.

Current credentialing organizations included in the IA are the Athletic Rehabilitation Therapy Ireland (ARTI), BOC and the Canadian Athletic Therapists Association (CATA). Additionally, the British Association of Sport Rehabilitators (BASRaT) is in the process of accumulating exam data and as a result, has been granted provisional acceptance into the IA. Organizations who have met all criteria except the exam requirements may be granted provisional acceptance into the IA.

“This arrangement aligns qualifications and credentials across international borders by developing a comparability tool tailored to each organization,” said Patrick Sexton, EDD, LAT, ATC, president, BOC Board of Directors.

According to Mélanie Levac, executive director of CATA, the IA will help to expand the profession and provide further career mobility and opportunities.

“The certification process recognizes credentials in partner countries and establishes equivalencies that enable growth,” said Levac. “The arrangement allows professionals to be mobile on a global scale and helps to expand career opportunities. We are thrilled for our members to be able to pursue work, study or volunteer opportunities in partner countries to develop their skills and expertise. Although Athletic Therapists use different titles in each of the partner countries, the arrangement will build equivalence in the public eye alongside awareness.”

BOC Certified ATs in good standing are qualified to apply for exam eligibility through the IA to become credentialed by ARTI or CATA. BASRaT's IA provisional acceptance also qualifies ATs to be eligible for their newly established exam through the IA process.

To initiate an application and access information regarding this process, individuals should visit the website of the organization for which they would like to be credentialed:

- [ARTI](#)
- [BASRaT](#)
- [CATA](#)

The IA provides new global opportunities for those in the profession. In addition to enabling mobility, the IA creates a global standard of practice and level of care for patients as organizations in the IA have all agreed to a certain standard level.

“Through the comparability process we've identified any education gaps from country to country, which can be addressed through additional education,” said Sexton. “This is an opportunity to raise the bar worldwide in the profession as gaps begin to close. This is a unique arrangement for our profession and establishes the international ground rules for credentialing in our profession.” While other professions may work to create a similar comparability tool, the IA

Launch of the International Arrangement

is unique in that it's a formalized alliance among international partners working in collaboration. It's more common to see an individual organization create their own comparability tool and allow others to use it, but not in partnership. The IA provides a template for other countries that have a developing athletic training and therapy profession and a clear pathway for the professions to develop in those countries with the support of the World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy.

Enda Whyte, PhD, chair of ARTI's International Committee sees the IA as a very important advancement for the Athletic Therapy profession in Ireland. "It allows for mobility and international recognition of certified Athletic Therapists who are members of ARTI. This provides opportunities for further study and employment internationally. The new IA builds on the pre-existing Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) which initially opened up opportunities between Ireland and the USA. It is wonderful for this to be expanded, including Canada and Britain," said Whyte. "It also has important ramifications for the profession in Ireland. It clearly demonstrates a global profession of athletic training and therapy and places ARTI as leaders with our partners the BOC, BASRaT and CATA. This is crucial for ARTI's continuing efforts to improve state and sporting recognition of the profession in Ireland."

As part of the IA, a credentials evaluation is performed by a world-class third party, International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. (ICD). The IA organizations worked with ICD to create this education comparability tool to facilitate a gap analysis. To review educational areas that will be addressed in the evaluation for each organization, visit the [IA website](#). A petition process has been implemented by which organizations in additional countries can be added.

"I am appreciative of our partners in the IA," said Sexton. "It has been a true partnership that will advance the world-class health care provided by our professions. As such, we are looking to add additional international professional organizations in the future."

According to Steve Aspinall, MSc, GSR, FHEA, chief executive of BASRaT, their organization has consistently been a vocal supporter of the multidisciplinary health care team and the strong role that Sport Rehabilitators and Athletic Trainers/Therapists play as a vital part of that team. He noted that his organization has been working alongside professional peers for the last few decades and have seen these respective professions grow in both quality and strength.

"Truly becoming one global profession is a huge step forward and will support the growth and development of our profession wherever they are in the world," he said. "We are also all now part of a group of critical friends, helping to ensure that we don't operate in blinkered silos and that public and patient health always comes first. The next decade is going to be an incredibly exciting period for our global profession and one of fantastic growth!"



Patrick Sexton,
EdD, LAT, ATC
BOC Board of
Directors President



Mélanie Levac
CATA Executive
Director



Enda Whyte,
PhD
Chair of ARTI's
International
Committee



Steve Aspinall,
MSc, GSR, FHEA,
BASRaT
Chief Executive

THE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT For The Athletic Training and Therapy Profession



New Board Member and Board Officer Transitions Announced for Upcoming Term



Chris Ashton,
MS, LAT, ATC



René Revis Shingles,
PhD, AT, ATC



Michael Carroll,
MEd, LAT, ATC



Mary Kirkland,
MS, LAT, ATC

BOC is pleased to announce newly appointed Athletic Trainer (AT) Director and officer transitions to the Board of Directors.

Chris Ashton MS, LAT, ATC will serve as the new AT Director to the BOC Board of Directors and will take office January 2023, following a year of mentorship and learning as an AT director-elect

Ashton serves as concussion program coordinator – clinical assistant at Twin Cities Orthopedics in Edina, Minn. His current professional role allows him to collaborate with ATs across a variety of settings, including secondary and collegiate athletics, physician clinics and community outreach. He currently serves on the BOC Professional Practice and Discipline Committee. In addition, Ashton was vice president of the Minnesota Athletic Trainers' Association (MATA) for four years, as well as serving as chair of the MATA's Continuing Education Committee and a member on the Committee on Practice Advancement. Ashton works with the Sports Medicine Fellowship within the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Minnesota and serves on its Clinical Competency Committee.

In addition, officer transitions include René Revis Shingles, PhD, AT, ATC, currently serving as vice president, stepping into the role of president at the beginning of 2022. Shingles will be the first African American president of the BOC Board of Directors.

Shingles took office as an AT director on the Board of Directors in January 2019. In addition to her service on the board, Shingles is currently the board liaison for the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Advocacy Strategies Task Force. Shingles has served on the BOC Cultural Diversity Panel, the Role Delineation Study Panel, as well as previously being an exam item writer for the Exam Development Committee. She has made an impact within the profession serving on various oversight boards, the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) Educational Council Executive Committee, as well as several activities and volunteer groups focused on inclusion and diversity issues. Shingles has conducted research on diversity issues during her doctoral training.

Currently, Shingles is a professor and internship coordinator for athletic training at Central Michigan University, as well as a practicing AT.

“Going forward, the BOC will deal with the ‘new normal’ posed by COVID-19, the impact of racial injustice and their effects on credentialing efforts, credential holders and other stakeholders and strategic partners,” said Shingles. “As was shown in the last few months, I envision the BOC maintaining strong leadership amid national and international changes and unrest. My work in inclusion, diversity, equity and advocacy will be beneficial in this regard. We will continue to work on globalization, international credentialing and specialty certifications. Additionally, as we implement our strategic plan, I envision the BOC as leaders in credentialing worldwide. The challenges with globalization create new opportunities for the BOC to be bold in shaping the future of athletic training and therapy, as well as credentialing in other markets. Internally, we will continue to align our policies, procedures and by-laws with best practices.”

As Shingles makes this move to president, Michael Carroll, MEd, LAT, ATC, will step into the vice president position. Carroll currently serves as an AT director on the board. His service to the athletic training profession includes serving as a former BOC examiner and model. In addition, he has served on several varied NATA committees, task forces and work groups, in addition to being president of the Southwest Athletic Trainers' Association.

Carroll is the head athletic trainer/assistant athletic director for the Graham Independent School District in Texas, overseeing all ATs that support the health and safety of all student athletes within the school district. He provides support to the district's athletic director in all aspects of operation.

Mary Kirkland, MS, LAT, ATC, current treasurer and an AT director on the board will remain in this position for an additional term. She has served in several leadership roles within the athletic training profession, serving the NATA as their liaison to the board of directors of National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity. In addition, Kirkland provided national leadership during her eight-year tenure as the chair of the NATA's Council on Employment, working to advance what was then considered emerging settings within athletic training.

Kirkland is an athletic training supervisor for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at John F. Kennedy Space Center. She has spent nearly her entire professional career with NASA and was responsible for establishing NASA's first athletic training facility at the John F. Kennedy Space Center.

First BOC Orthopedic Specialty Certification Exam

The BOC's first-ever board-certified specialty credential, the Board Certified Specialist in Orthopedics (BCS-O), exam launched this fall and is a step in elevating the role and level of recognition of Athletic Trainers (ATs) within health care.

The inaugural administration of the BOC Orthopedic Specialty Certification Exam took place between Oct. 15 and 24, 2021. Our initial BCS-O credential holders include ATs representing varied practice settings, with knowledge and skills focused in orthopedics.

The launch of BOC Specialties, and specifically, the orthopedic specialty, has been more than a decade in the making. Many steps of research and development, combined with a large number of volunteer hours, went into the creation of this exciting advancement for the athletic training profession.

The Orthopedic Specialty Certification Exam is an internet-based exam. Applicants have the option to choose their preferred administration method. In addition to being administered at Scantron testing centers, the Orthopedic Specialty Certification Exam was also administered via Live Remote Proctoring. This was the first time this technology has been used by the BOC. Requirements for this option included applicants ensuring their computers met outlined technical requirements. In addition, they had to ensure their testing environment met a minimum set of requirements outlined in the "[BOC Orthopedic Specialty Applicant Handbook](#)."

The "[BOC Orthopedic Practice Analysis](#)" (OPA) defines the domains (medical knowledge, procedural knowledge, professional practice) and task statements that are assessed on the Orthopedic Specialty Certification Exam. In preparation, we suggest ATs review the domains and task statements in the "[Content Outline for the BOC Orthopedic Practice Analysis](#)" comparing them to what they encounter within their specific practice. The knowledge and skills required of each domain and task statement can be found in the full OPA.

The exam format consists of the following item types:

1. Stand-Alone Items
 - multiple choice
 - multi-select
 - drag-and-drop
 - hot spot
2. Focused Testlets
 - A focused testlet consists of a scenario followed by key/critical items related to that scenario
 - Each focused testlet may include multiple choice items and/or any of the previous types

The exam contains a combination of 125 scored and unscored (experimental) items. There is no practical component. Sample Exam Questions can be found on the [BOC website](#). These sample items are representative of each exam question type to familiarize applicants with the look and feel of the computer interface and its navigation tools. The sample questions provided are not representative of exam content, only format.

To maintain the credential, BCS-O credential holders must comply with Continuing Specialty Certification requirements found on the [BOC website](#). Continuing Specialty Certification requirements are required to align with the OPA. Continuing Specialty Certification opportunities will be searchable in the BOC program directory. Live and online educational programs will be accepted.

The BOC will continue to reach those in the profession whose education and experience align with this advanced credential and promote the value of the BCS-O and the ATC® credentials to employers and potential employers of ATs.

Dates for the next exam, to be held in February 2022, can be found in the AT Specialties section of the [BOC website](#).

The Disciplinary Action Exchange

One focus of the mission of the BOC is to "assure protection of the public." The Disciplinary Action Exchange (DAE) was developed to help the BOC, state regulators and consumers locate disciplinary actions involving Athletic Trainers (ATs).

The DAE contains final BOC disciplinary actions that have been deemed public, as well as public disciplinary actions taken by state regulatory agencies. All actions posted to the DAE have been confirmed as public information. If you would like more information regarding a disciplinary action taken by the BOC, please email StacyA@bocatc.org.

HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

If an AT or member of the public (i.e., consumer, patient, employer, colleague) believes that an AT has violated the "[BOC Standards of Professional Practice](#)," they can file a complaint on the [BOC website](#). Fortunately, the BOC receives very few complaints against BOC Certified ATs. When a complaint is filed, the BOC complies with the "[Professional Practice and Discipline Guidelines and Procedures](#)." The BOC also encourages ATs or members of the public to file a complaint with the state in which the violation occurred. You can find state contact information on the [BOC website](#).

Continuing Professional Certification Concept Update

Q: Does CPC mean recertification by exam?

A: No. The BOC is shaping a new recertification concept - a selection of professional development activities that could create a more efficient and effective program for ATs.

Q: Will input from ATs actually impact the CPC program development?

A: Yes. We've held the open comment from August 17 until October 8 for one reason - to incorporate ideas from you that will make the CPC concept work for ATs.

Prior to this stage, we've gathered input from many ATs during our 2020 pilot programs. Below you will find summary outcomes from two of the pilots.

Competency Assessment Modules (CAMs): Mental Health Pilot

774 ATs from 14+ different practice settings completed the CAMs - Mental Health pilot. In a post-pilot survey, participants agreed the CAMs improved their knowledge of mental health as well as their awareness of strengths and weaknesses in this area. Specifically, over 92% of participants "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" the CAMs "Improved my knowledge of mental health."

QI: Facility Principles Pilot

115 ATs from a variety of practice settings completed the QI - Facility Principles Pilot. In a post-pilot survey, participants indicated the process improved their awareness of areas for improvement, strengths and/or compliance and ultimately enhanced patient outcomes. Specifically, over 70% of participants "Agreed" or "Strongly Agreed" the project "Enhanced my patients' outcomes."

The BOC would like to take a moment to thank Athletic Trainers (ATs) and stakeholders for participating in the Continuing Professional Certification (CPC) open comment from August 17 until October 8. We have taken note of all your input and comments. We learned through the process that many ATs were initially unaware of CPC and the work of ATs that has gone into this project at various levels over the past several years. We would like to take this opportunity to provide some clarity in regards to the background of CPC, as well as provide an overview and explanation of the proposed concept and next steps.

OVERVIEW AND EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED CONCEPT

Recertification is changing in health care. The BOC, with input from ATs in all settings, is now shaping a new recertification concept, CPC, to offer a more customized and efficient professional development program. The concept is meant to provide ATs the flexibility to map out an individualized professional development plan based on their preferred learning style, professional goals and practice setting. The ultimate goal of the final concept is to provide consumers the comfort of knowing all ATs are staying current with cutting-edge knowledge and skills in the field of athletic training - in line with National Commission of Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accreditation excellence.

CPC is overall guidance for health care professionals' requirements for continuing competence and maintenance of certification that are grounded in the core competencies identified in the Institute of Medicine (IOM), now the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) report "Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality" (2003) and reiterated in other IOM/ NAM reports, such as "Redesigning Continuing Education in the Health Professions" (2010), as well as the latest edition of the Institute of Credentialing Excellence (ICE) "Certification: The ICE Handbook" (2019).

- Provide patient-centered care
- Work in interdisciplinary teams
- Employ evidence-based practice
- Apply quality improvement
- Utilize informatics

Evidence has shown that across the health care professions, continuing education units (CEUs) alone aren't as effective or practical as they could be, and much of the medical field is evolving their approach, including nursing, occupational therapy, physician assistants and dietetics.

In 2016, the BOC convened the Maintenance of Competence Task Force, which included ATs from a variety of professional settings and members of the Strategic Alliance, that worked on an ongoing basis and provided regularly communicated updates. Beginning in 2020, the BOC's volunteer CPC Advisory Panel and Standards Committee, collaborated to develop the current CPC program recommendations after testing many components, including Professional Goals Appraisal (PGA), Competence Assessment Models (CAMs) and Quality Improvement (QI) projects, with successful pilot results.

NEXT STEPS

Remember that the CPC open comment was an exercise to generate ideas and will shape the way CPC looks in the future. There will be additional opportunities in the coming months and years for ATs to help shape the final result. CPC will not be fully implemented until 2024, and potentially not until 2026. This gives adequate

time to listen to ATs and stakeholders and build a professional recertification program that enhances the athletic training profession and integrates into your practice setting with ease. Stay up to date on new CPC developments by visiting the [BOC website](#).

RESOURCES

Executive Summary: Institute of Medicine. 2003. *Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/10681>.

Executive Summary: Institute of Medicine. 2010. *Redesigning Continuing Education in the Health Professions*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/12704>.

Institute for Credentialing Excellence. 2019. *Certification: The ICE Handbook*. Washington, DC: Institute for Credentialing Excellence. Chapter 24: Reframing Recertification for Continuing Competence, p559-578.

Q: Will the CPC program require more of an AT's time and money to fulfill CE requirements?

A: No. We know ATs carry more than a full load, and the time you spend in professional development should be time well-spent. The new system is being designed to:

- Provide you with more flexibility - Autonomy and ability to incorporate the material that will advance your own practice and goals, best adapted to your practice setting.
- Be more efficient - We heard the question, "Will it take more time and money?" and the answer to that is No. The concept does not include an increase in required CE; in fact, the number of required CE may decrease. Our goal is to make CE count, not count CEUs. We are looking for ways we can make use of what you already do day to day that may contribute to CE. (Meanwhile, it is difficult to estimate the exact amount of time and dollars recertification will take, as each AT would be making choices about their individualized plan, but it should not cost more.)
- Add more value - With new approaches that help ATs actually focus your learning on what you need and want to learn to increase your knowledge, skills and abilities. The PGA is an excellent example of how this can be done at a low cost. ATs who complete the PGA earn 10 Category B CEUs for \$65.

Q: Has the plan already been finalized?

A: Not at all. We are in the early stages of development and gathering your feedback so ATs can help us design a great system that fits into their practice. There will be additional opportunities in the coming months and years for ATs to help shape the final result.

More CPC FAQs are available on the [BOC website](#).



How BOC360 Benefits Athletic Trainers & Candidates



The BOC is excited for Athletic Trainers (ATs) and AT exam candidates to explore and utilize all the tools [BOC360](#) provides! BOC360 offers a more streamlined process for ATs and candidates to manage tasks and communicate with the BOC.

In BOC360, ATs can easily report continuing education units (CEUs), catch up on BOC messages and manage their tasks with ease. For candidates, the dashboard guides them from exam application to exam date to transition to a certified AT. Below is summary of BOC360 helpful features and tools.

DASHBOARD

The BOC360 dashboard allows ATs and candidates to view upcoming tasks and stay organized. Here's how:

- **My Profile** - update personal information
- **My To Do List** - stay organized to avoid missing deadlines
- **My Upcoming Tasks** - plan for upcoming tasks and priorities
- **My Direct Messages** - send messages to BOC staff and receive a response within 2-3 business days
- **Message History Report** - displays emails sent from the BOC
- **Announcements** - displays priorities and initiatives supported by the BOC

The AT dashboard provides access to helpful information and tools offered by the BOC including BOC certification card, self-assessment exams, needs assessment, official verification, state regulation information and much more. The candidate dashboard also provides access to self-assessment exams and allows candidates to upload documentation and special exam accommodation requests to their BOC profile.

ECC DOCUMENTATION

ATs must demonstrate ongoing certification and be current with requirements in Emergency Cardiac Care (ECC) throughout the reporting period. Using the "Update ECC Documentation" on the AT dashboard or the continuing education (CE) reporting form, ATs can enter the ECC provider, course title, issue and expiration dates and upload documentation in their BOC profile. Dashboard reminders under "My Upcoming Tasks" and "My To Do List" help ATs keep track of upcoming expiration dates.

Candidates can upload ECC to their BOC profile early in the exam application process and do not need to wait until exam results have been posted.

CE REPORTING FORM

The new and improved reporting form was designed to make the reporting process easier for ATs. All previously entered activities in BOC Central for the 2020-2021 reporting period should be reflected within the new BOC360 reporting form and additional activities can be entered with just a few clicks.

- **CE Summary** - calculate CEUs and update when an entry is saved
- **Quick Entry - Cat A & EBP** - look-up CE programs offered by a BOC Approved Provider for easy reporting
 - *Tip 1* - enter CEUs exactly as they are listed on the certificate
 - *Tip 2* - search for individual session named on your certificate instead of conference or convention name if they are listed individually
- **Category A-D CEUs** - record CE activities per category
 - *Tip 1* - enter CEU data manually under the appropriate categories by clicking the add button and selecting activity type
 - *Tip 2* - make edits to previously entered CEU data
- **Submission Checklist** - confirm all CE requirements, ECC, practice survey and confirmation statements are complete before submitting

BOC360 truly makes communicating with the BOC easy and provides tools to stay organized and on top of upcoming activities. Contact us directly through your BOC profile if you have any questions.

Recertification Checklist:

Be Prepared Before You Report

	ATs certified in 2019 or before	ATs certified in 2020
The following items are due by Dec. 31, 2021. (Please note, ATs certified in 2021 will not have items due.)		
2020 Certification Maintenance Fee	\$39 – NATA Member \$55 – Non-Member	N/A
2021 Certification Maintenance Fee	\$39 – NATA Member \$55 – Non-Member	\$39 – NATA Member \$55 – Non-Member
CEUs	50 CEUs (including at least 10 CEUs from the EBP category)	25 CEUs (including at least 5 CEUs from the EBP category)

As you prepare to report your 2020-2021 continuing education (CE) requirements, review the checklist below to avoid common mistakes before you submit.

NEW BOC PROFILE

- ✓ Log into your [BOC profile](#) and confirm that your information is accurate.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with the enhanced features including the new dashboard and reporting form.
- ✓ Refer to article on the previous page for more tips on how to get the most out of BOC360.

DUE DATE

- ✓ All continuing education units (CEUs) must be earned within the specified date parameters of the CE reporting period. Extra CEUs earned cannot be rolled over to the next reporting period.
- ✓ ATs who report CEUs after 11:59 p.m. CST on Dec. 31, 2021-Feb. 28, 2022, (reactivation) will be audited.

2021 CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE FEES

- ✓ Reminder, the option to bundle your 2021 BOC maintenance fee and National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) membership dues ended June 30, 2021. If you did not bundle prior to June 30, you will pay the fee in your BOC profile.

EMERGENCY CARDIAC CARE (ECC)

- ✓ Report and upload all ECC documentation to show compliance during the entire reporting period. This may include expired cards.
- ✓ Current ECC certification and uploaded documentation is required to be able to submit your reporting form.
- ✓ Report ECC certification at a BLS/Pro-Rescuer level that includes adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), pediatric CPR, second rescuer CPR, automated external defibrillators, airway obstruction, barrier devices (e.g., pocket mask, bag valve mask) and demonstrated skills (online ECC courses are acceptable if skills are demonstrated and tested in person by a qualified instructor. The in-person test can include video technology).
- ✓ ECC certification is required, however; CEUs are NOT awarded.

EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE (EBP) CATEGORY

REQUIRED Minimum -

10 CEUs if 50 CEUs due; 5 CEUs if 25 CEUs due

- ✓ As a reminder, EBP is still a requirement for the current certification period. (Beginning in the 2022-2023 recertification period, BOC Approved Providers will be incorporating EBP principles into all Category A programs.)

- ✓ Programs having the word “evidence” or “evidence-based practice” in the title are not necessarily BOC approved EBP programs. Prior to taking the program, look it up in the [BOC program directory](#) to confirm the program has been approved by the BOC for EBP CEUs.
- ✓ When entering the program for CE credit, utilize the Quick Entry tool. If the program doesn't appear on the list, it likely was not approved by the BOC for EBP CEUs.
- ✓ All BOC approved EBP programs should be reported in the EBP Category. There is a minimum requirement for the EBP Category, but not a maximum. All CEUs can be earned in the EBP Category, if desired.

CATEGORY A

Maximum - 40 CEUs if 50 CEUs due; 20 CEUs if 25 CEUs due

- ✓ Prior to taking a program, look it up in the [BOC program directory](#) to confirm the program has been approved by the BOC for Category A CEUs.
- ✓ When entering the program for CE credit, utilize the Quick Entry tool. If the program doesn't appear on the list, it likely was not approved by the BOC for Category A CEUs.

CATEGORY B

Maximum - 33 CEUs if 50 CEUs due; 17 CEUs if 25 CEUs due

- ✓ Teaching high school, college or university courses are NOT eligible for CEUs.
- ✓ CEUs can be earned for speaking when the audience is comprised of health care professionals (i.e., AT, MD, PA, RN, PT, etc.).
- ✓ CEUs can be earned for serving as a preceptor for a Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE)-accredited athletic training program.

CATEGORY C

Maximum - 40 CEUs if 50 CEUs due; 20 CEUs if 25 CEUs due

- ✓ CEUs can be awarded for successful completion of college/university courses.
- ✓ All CE content must fall within the domains of athletic training as outlined in the “Practice Analysis, 7th Edition” (PA7).

CATEGORY D

Maximum - 28 CEUs if 50 CEUs due; 14 CEUs if 25 CEUs due

- ✓ Surgery observation that includes an educational component with objectives can be awarded CEUs.
- ✓ Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), specifically the content learned beyond basic life support which typically accounts for about half the course.
- ✓ All CE content must fall within the domains of athletic training as outlined in the PA7.



Carisa Raucci, PhD, LAT, ATC

Athletic Trainer and Head of Clinical Operations for Diligent Robotics

Carisa Raucci, PhD, LAT, ATC is the Head of Clinical Operations for Diligent Robotics. She has been practicing as a Certified Athletic Trainer (AT) for nearly 16 years.

Describe your employment setting.

I work in a business office (when not working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic) but travel to our partner hospital locations on a regular basis. I spend nearly half of my time working in hospitals to support our delivery robot services.

Describe your typical day:

In order to successfully manage a clinical operations department, there is a ton of administrative responsibilities that take place. I spend a great deal of time working on process improvement, especially regarding the clinical workflows our robots use for the delivery of goods throughout hospitals. Every hospital is laid out differently and each has its own unique set of problems. I work a great deal with nurses, lab personnel, pharmacy staff and other hospital personnel to identify the most utilized items, and map out where they need to go and at which times of day. I augment these workflow decisions using data that our team collects.

Building and iterating on workflows takes up a lot of the day. My experience working with insurance companies and claims has helped me with obtaining vendor credentialing for each of our employees within each hospital system. In addition, I spend time working with hospital staff using their Electronic Medical Records (EMRs) and helping build work orders for the delivery of goods. Having experience using EMRs in the traditional athletic training setting was invaluable for me in this part of my job. In addition, I manage a team of employees including recruiting, hiring, training, scheduling, performance reviews and team building. I work closely with department leads here at Diligent to calibrate on company-wide timelines and expectations. I use the communication, organization and documentation skills that are so heavily emphasized in the athletic training setting to perform all daily tasks.

What do you like about your position? What motivates you?

Just like a traditional athletic training setting, I love tackling problems by finding solutions. In a very dynamic environment such as a hospital, you never know when a new problem will arise. I love that every day brings a new adventure, and no two days are alike. I have always been motivated by helping others. In this role, our service is to remove the need for nurses running tasks around the hospital by making these deliveries for them. This function helps nurses spend more time bedside with patients. Our robots are also great for boosting patient and employee morale. In the middle of a global pandemic, I cannot think of anything more exciting and meaningful than what I do on a daily basis.



What is your greatest achievement as an AT?

This is a tough question. I would say the thing I am most proud of is the number of people I have helped, either directly or indirectly in my career. In addition to many years of full-time direct patient care, I have helped implement programs such as multidisciplinary concussion programs and telepsychiatry programs that served hundreds of thousands of patients across the country. In my latest role, I help patients receive care sooner by making sure the delivery of goods in hospital settings frees up nursing time. Each of these programs has aided countless patients by bringing cutting-edge technology to the health care industry.

What advice do you have for other ATs?

The advice I give most ATs is to always keep an open mind about what your skill set can do for others. Take the time to think about how your skills can translate across different settings. ATs are very smart, have a great foundation of health care knowledge and can use their operational experience and administrative skills to really leverage their value. The next time you host a large-scale sporting event, think about how this could translate into implementing a telemedicine program or overseeing multiple sports medicine clinics or hiring for an outreach program. ATs make great educators for not only patients, parents and athletic training students, but also for educating decision makers on new health care technologies and how to best treat patients. ATs are extremely adaptable and resilient and make great employees in a variety of settings. I recommend ATs find their passion by pursuing jobs across many industries.

NEW BOC APPROVED PROVIDERS

Acumed Medical Ltd.
Advanced Kinetics Physical
Therapy
AdvantageCEUs.com
Airrosti Rehab Centers
Alliance for Intercollegiate Sports
Medicine
American Chiropractic Board of
Sports Physicians
American Osteopathic Academy
of Sports Medicine
Architech Sports and Physical
Therapy
BIG Sports Med Continuing Ed
Boston University
Central Texas Athletic Trainers'
Society
Core Exercise Solutions
Dr. Fitzgerald & Associates
Eastern Michigan University Athletic
Training
Intermountain Healthcare Sports
Medicine - Provo
Judith Gelber
Kansas Athletic Trainers' Society
Logan University
Loras College
Maine Medical Partners
Orthopedics and Sports Medicine
Marywood University
Medical University of South
Carolina
Michigan State University College
of Osteopathic Medicine
National Academy of Sports
Medicine
National Council on Strength &
Fitness
National Sports Medicine
Foundation
NeuFit
Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports
Medicine Teaching and Research
Foundation
Orthopaedics Plus Physical Therapy
Performance Dynamics, Inc.
PFATS
Postural Restoration Institute Japan
ProCare

FEATURED BOC APPROVED PROVIDER



The Defense Health Agency, J-7, Continuing Education Program Office

Dr. Lolita O'Donnell, PhD, RN

The BOC regularly features BOC Approved Providers for notable efforts to enhance its continuing education programs for Athletic Trainers (ATs). Featured organizations follow the guidelines set forth by the BOC. The Federal Government Administrator at United States Department of Defense Dr. Lolita O'Donnell, PhD, RN shares her organization's experience as a [Joint Accreditation \(JA\)](#) provider. As a JA provider, organizations have the opportunity to provide continuing education (CE) activities for multiple professions through a single, unified application process, fee structure and set of accreditation standards without needing to obtain separate accreditations. JA is the first and only process in the world offering this benefit. The JA has expanded its CE reach to include the athletic training profession.

Can you tell us a little more about your organization and your work in providing continuing education to health care providers and ATs?

The Defense Health Agency, J-7, Continuing Education Program Office (DHA, J-7, CEPO) is the accredited CE/continuing medical education (CME) provider for health care professionals who support/care for U.S. active duty service members, reservists, military veterans and their families. DHA, J-7, CEPO, as a JA provider offers CE/CME credit for educational activities for the following health professions: Athletic Trainers (ATs), physicians, nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, optometrists, social workers, psychologists, dental professionals and dietetic professionals.

The DHA, J-7, CEPO is also accredited with the American Health Information Management Association, American Occupational Therapy Association, American Physical Therapy Association, American Speech Language Hearing Association, Council on Professional Standards for Kinesiotherapy, Commission of Case Manager Certification and National Board for Certified Counselors. Adding ATs to our portfolio allows us to expand our support of the Military Health System (MHS). It is our responsibility to provide CE opportunities to the health care providers who help service members remain ready to defend our country. ATs are a critical piece in making sure troops are healthy and available for combat at a moment's notice. We are thrilled that we can provide ATs CE opportunities to allow them to develop resilience in our military members.

NEW BOC APPROVED PROVIDERS

Sentara Orthopedics and Sports
Medicine

South Carolina Athletic Trainers'
Association

South Dakota Athletic Training
Association

Spaulding Rehabilitation Network

Spooner Physical Therapy

Sport Medics

St. Luke's University Health Network

TB12 Performance and Recovery

Tennessee Orthopaedic Alliance

The Back School

The University of Texas Permian
Basin

Therabody

TPI

UCHealth

UCLA Athletics

University of Maryland Health
Center - Maryland Sports Medicine

University of Tennessee at
Chattanooga

Virginia Tech Center for
Performance & Sports Med

Washington University in St. Louis,
Department of Orthopaedic
Surgery

West Virginia University

Whitworth University Athletic
Training Program

Yoga Therapy Seminars

Why does your organization choose to be a JA provider?

The DHA's new priorities identified in the DHA Fiscal Year 2021 Campaign Plan were: Great Outcomes, Ready Medical Force, Satisfied Patients and Fulfilled Staff. Being a JA provider allows organizations under DHA to submit one application when seeking accreditation for up to nine disciplines from our office. This directly aligns with our goal to serve the Military Health System (MHS) and its multitude of professionals. We are the largest health care entity in the world. It makes sense that we would want to emphasize collaboration between health care teams with JA being the leading model for interprofessional collaborative practice.

How does being a JA provider help you attract participants to your course?

The primary focus of CE medical education offerings within the Department of Defense was historically CME and continuing nursing education (CNE), thus our JA status allows us to more fully support the health care providers within the MHS. Providers are attracted to how we streamlined awarding CE credit and they are happy to know with one application they can cover multiple disciplines including, but not limited to, dentistry, social work and athletic training. Furthermore, we feature evidence based practices and conduct meaningful dialog with them to help solve problems they may face in the field.

How do you design your curriculum to help participants improve outcomes for the patients they serve?

As members of a governmental organization, all of our work is mandated congressionally. Our leadership plays a significant role in guiding congress on what our annual priorities should be and are then reflected in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). For each of the themes the DHA poses each year, we hold "Clinical Community Speaker Series" where we dive into how we propose to focus on each of those key initiatives. Between reviewing the NDAA and consulting the health care themes set forth by the DHA, we are able to make informed decisions when it comes to designing our curriculum. Recently we have been able to highlight Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) produced by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense. By targeting use of CPGs within our curriculum, we are able to encourage standardization of care provided by health care professionals within the MHS. Through course evaluations, our learners are able to indicate if they anticipate changing any of their health care practices and if so, how they will apply this knowledge to their current practices.

What advice do you have for organizations looking to be on the cutting edge and maintain compliance, as they develop education programs?

It is essential that a conscious effort is made to keep up with evolving technology. Despite the challenges brought about by COVID-19, the team has been adapting to changes through continual assessment of lessons learned in order to optimize support. Our organization was able to seamlessly adapt to hosting virtual events because of the clear standard operating procedures that have been utilized throughout the years. It is also imperative that organizations do continual evaluations of their education programs. Make sure that you engage in interprofessional collaboration and even survey your stakeholders. Each of these best practices will ensure that programs remain timely, relevant and meaningful.

LEGISLATION NEWS

The BOC tracks state and federal regulatory actions affecting the athletic training profession. Visit the [BOC website](#) to view the full list of legislative bills that affect Athletic Trainers (ATs) and [BILLTRACK50.com](#) to track the legislation listed below.

Bills that passed this past legislation session:

Alabama	SB73 - update AT practice act (PASSED)
Arkansas	HB1259 - update AT practice act (PASSED)
Colorado	SB147 - continues licensure until 2031 (PASSED)
Illinois	SB1078 - dry needling (PASSED)
Indiana	SB0003 - telehealth matters (ATs included as a "practitioner" (PASSED)
Iowa	HF196 - adds ATs to the health care professional recruitment program (PASSED)
Mississippi	HB1047 - require the payment of an annual salary supplement to state-licensed ATs employed by a school district who have acquired national board certification Professionals To Receive The Annual Salary Supplement While Employed In A Public School District Or Public Special Purpose School; And For Related Purposes. (PASSED)
New Mexico	SB145 - continues licensure until 2028 (PASSED)
Wisconsin	SB329 - update AT practice act (PASSED)
Wyoming	SF0074 - update AT practice act (PASSED)

Monitor legislative bills that affect ATs with the Bill Widget under State Regulators on the [BOC website](#). Click on Legislation to see current bills.

Professional Certification Coalition (PCC)

BOC has been a member since August 2018 to help address efforts to enact state legislation that would undermine the activities or recognition of certifications developed or offered by non-governmental, private certification organizations. The PCC monitors state and federal legislative and regulatory activity affecting professional certification on an ongoing basis.

The PCC provides its members with a State Legislative WatchList that is updated on a regular basis and includes a thorough bill summary. Separate from the watchlist, PCC has also started to monitor reciprocity bills being considered. PCC continues to be engaged in positive federal legislation that may benefit BOC credential holders.

CARE Conference Save The Date

The Compliance and Regulatory Education (CARE) Conference 2022 will be held in Omaha, NE July 15-16, 2022 at the Omaha Marriott Downtown Capitol District. Details will be released in the months ahead.

BOC News

BOC Launches a New Look and New BOC360 Portal

The BOC launched a new brand and logo. This bold, innovative brand defines a vision of both what the BOC represents as an organization and what Athletic Trainers represent to the public as health care professionals. The new brand launch also included an updated website with a new portal named [BOC360](#). BOC360 provides an enhanced way to manage your BOC profile and report your continuing education activities. Check out our updated website and portal at [BOCATC.org](#).

VNATA Clinical Symposia & AT Expo Recap

On June 22-24, the BOC took part in the Virtual National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) Clinical Symposia & AT Expo (VNATA). The BOC virtual booth provided information and resources to ATs visiting the booth. We were also able to connect virtually with convention attendees at the BOC booth and answer questions via a live chat function. In addition, the BOC held a presentation, "CPC and Specialty Certification: A BOC Update."

On June 21, the BOC hosted a virtual reception to recognize volunteers and provide a sneak peek of our new brand. In addition, we recognized and thanked volunteers throughout the month of July on social media and the BOC website.

We would like to thank everyone who visited the BOC virtual booth and our events during the 2021 VNATA. Overall, it was a great experience. The BOC is looking forward to next year and hopes to see you in 2022!

Congratulations to BOC 2021 Award Honorees and Scholarship Winners

The BOC announced its 2021 award and scholarship winners. This year's Dan Libera Service Award honorees are Birgid Hopkins, ATC and Dr. Sarah Manspeaker, PhD, ATC. Both are long-time BOC volunteers, leaders and contributors to the athletic training profession. This service award was created in honor of past BOC board member, Dan Libera, who was an instrumental leader in creating the high-level certification process that exists today for the athletic training profession.

Hopkins has been a valued member of the Exam Development Committee (EDC) for more than 13 years. She leads with integrity and professionalism, currently acting as a co-chair for a sub-group of the EDC.

Manspeaker is an accomplished member of the Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Review Panel, as well as a past oral practical exam examiner. Her contributions through research and education have guided and elevated BOC EBP to new heights.

In addition, the BOC named the following 2021 scholarship recipients through the NATA Foundation: Brianna Durics from Moravian College received the Lindsay McClean Scholarship and Sugwan Kim from Bridgewater State University received the Paul Grace Scholarship.

Renew Your NATA Membership

Renew your National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) membership now to take advantage of valuable member-only benefits, such as career development opportunities, professional development and connection to the athletic training community. Members also have access to valuable resources, such as the Professional Liability Toolkit, NATA Career Center and publications including "NATA News" and "Sports Medicine Legal Digest." Visit the [NATA website](#) to renew and learn more about NATA's member benefits.

Join President Dieringer for NATA Updates & Insights

Starting this fall, members are invited to attend NATA Forward Motion, a new 30-minute live quarterly conversation with NATA President Kathy Dieringer, EdD, LAT, ATC. Each quarter during NATA Forward Motion, Dieringer will share updates, provide insight into various strategic initiatives and address timely topics of importance to members. NATA Forward Motion will be limited to 300 attendees for the live event and is first come, first served. Once the live event is full, NATA will provide an overflow space to ensure that all registered members are able to attend the events or view on-demand at a time that works best for them. Visit the [NATA Forward Motion webpage](#) to learn more and see what topics Dieringer will discuss each quarter.

At Your Own Risk Debuts New Website

NATA's public-facing website (ATYOUROWNRIK.org) is getting a makeover with new content, modern graphics and an interactive map featuring individual state information you can share. The new At Your Own Risk website will provide educational resources and calls to action for key stakeholders as well as a "Hire an AT" section for employers who would like to learn about Athletic Trainers (ATs), their value, average salary and settings in which ATs work.

MEET THE BOC VOLUNTEERS



Carla R. Gilson,
MA, AT, LAT, CES

The Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Advocacy Strategies Task Force (IDEAS), headed by co-chairs Carla R. Gilson, MA, AT, LAT, CES and Cathy Ortega, EdD, PT, ATC, OCS has worked since November 2020 to support the BOC's Strategic Plan priority of Advocacy. The task force, since its formation in November 2020, has defined its mission with a statement of work and defined measurable strategic goals. The direction and work of the task force were to investigate inclusion, diversity and equity opportunities within the BOC as it relates to the athletic training community and to suggest strategic and deliberative advocacy and leadership development for future committees, policies and procedures. An IDEAS Committee was approved by the BOC Board of Directors to permanently implement the work of this valuable task force and will be led by Gilson and Ortega as co-chairs.

Carla R. Gilson, MA, AT, LAT, CES

Describe the past year and your work with the IDEAS Task Force

First, let me say it was truly an honor to serve in this capacity. Kudos to Pat Sexton, BOC board president, René Revis Shingles, BOC board vice president, Anne Minton, chief executive officer (CEO) and Ashley Rubalcava, staff liaison, for being trailblazers and committing to this work. It was an amazing year of learning, understanding and growth! The process began just over one year ago with a virtual “meet and greet.” Having the opportunity to connect with Athletic Trainers (ATs) who are subject matter leaders in IDEAS concepts challenged my thought processes, expectations and perspectives. Prior to this opportunity, I was unaware of the work and efforts of the BOC, and its commitment to its stakeholders. I hope all certificants understand how exhaustive this process was and is. I believe our ability to commit to IDEAS by creating environments in which all people can feel safe, included and accepted will improve how we deliver care also promote positive outcomes for those we serve.

How do you see the work of the IDEAS Task Force over the past year shaping the future of the BOC and the athletic training profession?

The work of our IDEAS Task Force is ground-breaking. I hope it makes us more aware and conscious of those within our sphere of influence. It's an opportunity for all ATs to be intentional about the environments and culture we engineer and decisions that we make. I recently had an athlete say that she wonders what it's like to not have attention drawn to a cut or scar on her body because band-aids are visible against her skin tone. She asked if bandages come in various colors or tones. Though this seems a non-factor or non-essential, let's consider how a simple skin tone bandage could make a person feel.

What motivated you from your personal life/experience to be involved with the IDEAS Task Force?

I was “volun-told” to participate. I cannot say there was one particular life experience. I am involved with a community of diverse ATs. Our focus is building community and being a village for black, brown and diverse ATs. The wealth of knowledge gained from the network and the opportunity for people to “be” loved, encouraged, developed and challenged influenced my involvement.

What is the best or most rewarding part about volunteering with the BOC?

The work itself is rewarding and the opportunity to serve. As a clinical AT working in D1 A5 athletics, it's extremely challenging and demanding to “find the time” to volunteer. But for me, that's what makes serving, thus volunteering, so important. Just as the work itself requires selfish energies by all, the focus is the outcome.

When I first met Pat and Anne the only connection we shared related to the BOC was continuing education documentation. That was the only time I ventured to the website. It was not until this opportunity that I had acknowledged the impact of the BOC on my career as an AT.

How has your experience volunteering at the BOC influenced you?

Like everything else, it starts with a start, and the start of this volunteer opportunity was to help and support our profession.

What advice would you give to an AT looking to get involved as a BOC volunteer?

Do it. And be engaged as you commit to the work. You don't have to be an expert, because trust me ... I was not. I was willing. The voices of ATs are valuable. Let's position ourselves to support continued growth of our profession and be the best advocates for our patients and community. Search for opportunities within the BOC, NATA and state organizations to volunteer.

What is your greatest achievement as an AT?

Good question. Well, I am an AT, and I would like to think that I have impacted others in the profession. So, if helping someone else can be considered a great achievement, I hope there are many.



Cathy Ortega,
EdD, PT, ATC, OC

The BOC would like to take this opportunity to thank all our BOC volunteers who serve as BOC board members, committee, task force, workgroup members and exam item writers. The BOC welcomes volunteers from a variety of backgrounds. Visit the [BOC website](#), to learn more about volunteer opportunities with the BOC.

Cathy Ortega, EdD, PT, ATC, OCS

Describe the past year and your work with the IDEAS Task Force?

The work with the IDEAS Task Force has been both enlightening and humbling. I started the endeavor with the guiding thought that we “do not know what we do not know” about what people have/are experiencing, what people must deal with and how to come up with solutions. It has been very helpful to have a good working group, not just in leadership, but especially the task force members. Everyone brings information and experiences to the discussions and we have ended up with an IDEAS Strategic Plan that is expansive, yet specific to what the BOC can do. I feel that we have made a comprehensive plan to work with the strategic partners and still “stay in our lane” as the BOC staff and Board of Directors continue to remind us.

How do you see the work of the IDEAS Task Force over the past year shaping the future of the BOC and the athletic training profession?

I believe that the IDEAS Strategic Plan we’ve created is the start of a pathway to implement the overall BOC Strategic Plan. The work of the task force informs and guides the BOC to be inclusive. I really like that we looked broadly across the profession, as well as across all aspects of the work of the BOC. We looked within the office spaces and across all areas we touch within the profession, specifically examination, credentialing, continuing education, etc. I believe that creating the IDEAS Strategic Plan helps us be intentional, look to everything that we do each day and think about promoting diversity and inclusion as well as advocating for all constituents.

What motivated you from your personal life/experience to be involved with the IDEAS Task Force?

I am a person of color, I am a female. I have been a statistic in so many reports. I know that sports medicine entailed “blending,” assimilating in order to “be at the table” to create solutions and contribute to making decisions. I have been fortunate to have great mentors, good sponsors and to take advantage of excellent opportunities, however, I think it is the responsibility of each of us to “send the elevator back down” and help others rise as well. There are evidence-based strategies to create pathways and promote development, but we have not applied these consistently to athletic training nor other health care professions. I wanted to bring some of this information and the voice of my experience to the BOC which has resources, influence and commitment to actually make positive change happen.

What is the best or most rewarding part about volunteering with the BOC?

The most rewarding part has been contributing a part and seeing it come together as a greater whole. I have enjoyed listening to each person’s knowledge, insights and experiences and then within the discussions seeing how it all comes together to inform solutions OR create further questions to be answered.

How has your experience volunteering at the BOC influenced you?

Though Carla Gilson and I were considered co-chairs of this task force, the actual leadership within the meetings always rotates, with individuals within the meeting offering ways to organize the tasks or discussions. I have again realized that one can learn something new with each volunteer experience. I have gained better clarity about the culture of the BOC which has been helpful. One does not really garner this from a website nor from the mission statements really; it comes from interacting with staff and leaders as well as doing the work of the organization.

What advice would you give to an AT looking to get involved as a BOC volunteer?

Read your email announcements, for sure. This is where we can get information about what issues are important to the organization. Then, think about what is relevant to your own experience. Cruise the BOC website and think about what the athletic training profession is about and what could be done to better serve those for whom we are responsible or those we serve and represent.

What is your greatest achievement as an AT?

I believe that the care I give each day to treat a patient and to help them make decisions to be a functional, healthy adult later in life is my greatest achievement. Each time that I tell someone, “It is not safe for you to continue now. It is more important to be able to carry your groceries out of your car or pick up a small child in a few years,” and they say “Ok, I’ll stop,” or just take the advice and take care of themselves; I feel I have achieved a great feat. I would say I am most proud first of all for the opportunity to have represented my country at different Olympic events - that just brings out the patriotism and pride of being an American. And secondly, introducing the profession to countries where it currently does not exist, places such as Mongolia, China, Poland and others; again, makes me proud and reminds me of my good fortune to have been an AT in the U.S.



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ATHLETIC TRAINER CERTIFICATION 2022 Exam Deadlines

	JAN/FEB*	MAR/APR*	MAY/JUN*	JUL/AUG*	OCT*
Apply	12/27/21	2/21	4/25	6/27	9/12
Register**	12/22/21-1/3	2/18-2/28	4/22-5/2	6/24-7/5	9/9-9/19
Schedule	1/11-2/3	3/8-3/31	5/10-6/2	7/12-8/4	9/27-10/20
Exam	1/22-2/5	3/19-4/2	5/21-6/4	7/23-8/6	10/8-10/22
Results	2/19-3/5	4/16-4/30	6/18-7/2	8/20-9/3	11/5-11/19

*BOC reserves the right to make changes due to the dynamic COVID-19 situation

**BOC must receive ADA accommodation requests no later than 5 p.m. CT

APPLY

Candidates must complete the exam application no later than 5 p.m. CT on the exam application deadline date for the exam window they want to sit for. Applications received by the current application deadline date are processed within two days of the current exam window.

Candidates who submit the application after 5 p.m. CT on the exam application deadline date will not be eligible to sit for the current exam window. The BOC will process exam applications after the registration window for the current exam window closes.

REGISTER

Applications must be approved in order to register for the exam. Candidates must register and pay the exam fee in their BOC profile no later than 5 p.m. CT on the exam registration deadline date. ADA accommodation requests must be received by the BOC no later than 5 p.m. CT on the registration deadline date.

SCHEDULE

Candidates who registered and paid for the current exam window will be sent an email from Scantron the day scheduling opens. The email will include a link, username and password details. Candidates will utilize this information to log into the Scantron website to schedule their exam site, date and time. Candidates should add candidatesupport@scantron.com to their list of approved senders so important messages do not get sent to their spam folder.

ARTI Certified Athletic Rehabilitation Therapists may schedule an exam in Ireland, Canada and United States. University Camilo José Cela (UCJC) candidates may schedule an exam in Spain, Canada or United States. Graduates of a CAATE accredited athletic training program may only schedule an exam in Canada or the United States. Any request to change an exam site may result in additional fees.

EXAM

The BOC exam is administered at Scantron testing centers during two-week testing windows.

RESULTS

Within two to four weeks from the last day of the exam window, candidates will be sent an email from the BOC notifying them exam results have been posted online. Candidates will be instructed to log into their BOC profile to see their updated status. Visit the [“Transition from Candidate to AT”](#) page for more information.

BOC Holiday Closures

Thanksgiving
November 25–26, 2021

Winter Holiday
December 23–24, 2021

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 17, 2022

Good Friday
April 15, 2022

Memorial Day
May 30, 2022

Independence Day
July 4, 2022

Labor Day
September 5, 2022



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FOR THE ATHLETIC TRAINER

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