



### Mission

The mission of the National Athletic Trainers' Association is to represent, engage and foster the continued growth and development of the athletic training profession and athletic trainers as unique health care providers.

### Vision

Athletic trainers will be globally recognized as vital practitioners in the delivery and advancement of health care. Through passionate provision of unique services, athletic trainers will be an integral part of the inter-professional health care team.

### Strategic Plan Overview

#### Advocacy (A1- A4)

Elevate the profession by enhancing its image; influencing public opinion and policy; and demonstrating the value of services and economic impact of ATs in the health care arena.

#### Engagement (E1-E4)

Provide opportunities for involvement and leadership development through participation in NATA programs and initiatives.

#### Development (D1-D4)

Enhance the practice of athletic training through programs, services and education designed to improve patient outcomes.

As you read of the National Monthly Briefing, you will notice a denotation (**A1, E2, D3**, etc.) at the end of each subject. These denotations will show how each task relates to the Strategic Plan. For the complete Strategic Plan, please view it [here](#).

### Overview

The national briefing is a monthly communication prepared for board members, district/state leaders and volunteers to highlight recent and/or upcoming initiatives at your national office. Consider the information in this briefing as a resource when providing updates about NATA to your constituencies. A new briefing is included in the board packet monthly and distributed via email to all volunteer leaders (board members, committee chairs and state leaders). If you have any questions about information included in this briefing, contact Zaneta Sevier, Marketing Coordinator, at [zanetas@nata.org](mailto:zanetas@nata.org).

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## Advocacy

### 116th United States Congress

On Jan. 3, 435 members of the House of Representatives and 100 senators were sworn in to mark the start of the 116th United States Congress. Among those being sworn in were 101 freshman representatives and 10 newly elected senators. [A1](#)

### State Legislative Sessions

Throughout January, 44 state legislatures will reconvene for new legislative sessions. Some states, such as Ohio, will reconvene less than a month after the adjournment of their last legislative session. Other states, such as Texas, will meet for the first time in more than a year. [A1](#)

### Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

NATA recently participated on a call hosted by the Friends of AHRQ (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality). Included in the call was a discussion regarding the organization's AHRQ funding request for fiscal year 2020. The group later submitted an appropriations request to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies. The amount requested would allow AHRQ to rebuild portfolios terminated as a result of past cuts and expand its research and training portfolio to address the country's urgent and evolving health care challenges. [A1](#)

### Office of National Drug Control Policy

The Office of National Drug Control Policy recently released its first national strategy document under the Trump administration. The policy road-map focuses primarily on treatment, prevention and stemming the flow of illegal drugs. NATA is currently reviewing the document for potential effects on the profession, and will provide comments in the near future. [A1](#)

### Collaborative for Effective Prescription Opioid Policies

NATA recently signed a series of letters from the Collaborative for Effective Prescription Opioid Policies regarding the safe disposal of prescription medications. The first letter, sent to U.S. Food & Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb, focused on expanded safe disposal options, including at-home disposal, as part of the recently enacted SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act. The second letter, addressed to CalRecycle, covers a similar topic as well as the implementation of a pharmaceutical waste stewardship program enacted as part of S.B. 212. [A4](#)

### Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation

NATA recently participated in the Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation annual meeting. The meeting featured a look back at the coalition's accomplishments in 2018 and a discussion about the group's public policy agenda in 2019. [A4](#)

### Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition

NATA signed on to the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition fiscal year 2020 brochure. The brochure includes new data on Title VII and Title VIII programs, and the important role they play in developing the health care workforce. [A4](#)

## Engagement

### NATA Research & Education Foundation Committees

The NATA Research & Education Foundation is currently seeking to fill multiple vacancies in June on the Free Communication Committee and the Educational Resources Committee. Applicants may either be nominated or self-nominated for these opportunities. Interested individuals should send a letter of interest and CV to [fndnstaff@nata.org](mailto:fndnstaff@nata.org). Deadline to submit is March. [E2](#)

### Faculty Mentor Program

The NATA Research & Education Foundation [Faculty Mentor Program](#) provides guidance and mentorship to junior faculty members involved in higher education within the athletic training profession. Applications to participate as a mentor or mentee are open until March 15. [E3](#)

### NATA Foundation Awards

#### New Investigator Award

David Howell, PhD, ATC

#### Medal for Distinguished Athletic Training Research

Gary Wilkerson, EdD, ATC, FNATA

#### The David H. Perrin Doctoral Dissertation Award

Matthew Harkey, PhD, ATC

[E4](#)

### Public Awareness

NATA worked with the U.S. Department of Defense public affairs department to promote its #knowyourmil campaign that highlighted an athletic trainer who is also a military veteran. The video titled "[Navy to NFL Athletic Trainer](#)," which featured James Collins, ATC, the director of football and medical services for the Los Angeles Chargers, was shared with more than 9 million social media followers. To complement the video, a press release was distributed - "[Five Reasons Why Military Veterans Should Become an Athletic Trainer](#)." Additionally, ahead of the Super Bowl, NATA worked with Los Angeles Rams Director of Sports Medicine and Performance Reggie Scott, MS, ATC, PES, to provide insight into his team's "[Road to a Healthy Super Bowl](#)." [E4](#)

## Development

### Safe Sports School Award

The Safe Sports School Award (SSSA) has been granted to 1,537 schools since the program's inception in March 2013. Additionally, 261 prior recipients have renewed their SSSA status since 2016. [D1](#)

### Convention Program 2019

While an array of sessions, across various topics, are offered each year at convention, the Convention Program Committee also identifies trending areas to give a special focus to each year and dedicates a portion of the programming to those topics. This year's theme area are:

- Performing Arts
- Care Across the Lifespan
- Manual Therapy

Check the preliminary program in early March for more information on these three areas as well as the many other educational topics being covered at convention.

The Free Communications Subcommittee received 692 submissions for the 2019 convention. This is the largest number ever received. Of those, 543 were accepted. The posters, oral presentations and clinical case reports shared by Free Communications allows attendees to be exposed to cutting edge research and content. [D1](#)

### NATA Continuing Professional Development in Educational Scholarship Grant

The Education Advancement Committee has established the [NATA Continuing Professional Development in Educational Scholarship Grant](#). The purpose of this award is to provide monetary support for educational researchers seeking to develop their skills and advance their scholarship through continuing professional development activities. The purpose of the award is not to fund a specific research study, pilot project or equipment needs. Use of funds includes many activities, such as completing a workshop to learn software, attending a teaching and learning conference, meeting with a collaborator or mentor, etc.

Up to five grants per year of up to \$1,000 per person will be awarded. The application deadline is June 1. [D2](#)

### Leadership Development Certificate Graduates

In the December 2018 National Briefing we reported the current graduates. Congratulations to the following scholars who have graduated since that last report!

- Samantha Kieser, ATC
- Jennifer Petruzzo, MS, ATC, CSCS
- Ashley Vogds, MA, ATC
- Courtney Washington, MS, ATC, LAT
- Timothy Cocrane, ATC
- Jeromy Alt, MS, ATC
- Eric Simmons, MS, ATC, CSCS, CWChP
- Michael Porters, MAT, ATC
- Frank Shipley, MS, LAT, ATC
- Gretchen Buskirk, MBA, MEd, AT, ATC, PES
- Kaitlin R. Griego, MBA, LAT, ATC

Each of these graduates completed the coursework that focuses on vision, communication, collaboration and strategic thinking. As the final step of their work, they have communicated

their areas of interests with their district director and developed a plan for moving forward in their volunteer efforts.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in pursuing the Leadership Development Certificate, visit the [NATA website](#) to learn more. **D3**