

THE CLINICAL IMPRESSION

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION

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Vol. 1

David Gallegos Wins NATA Presidential Election

The Rocky Mountain Athletic Trainers' Association proudly congratulates David Gallegos, MA, ATC, Cert. MDT, on his election as President of the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA). David's election marks a historic milestone, as he becomes the first NATA President from District 7, representing the athletic trainers of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. For RMATA members, David's election is especially meaningful. A longtime champion of District 7, he has served our Association with distinction as a member of the Public Relations Committee, RMATA Secretary, District 7 Director. His dedication to advancing athletic training has helped shape the profession at every level. Professionally, David serves as Deputy CEO of Southwest Sport & Spine Center, Inc., where he continues to lead innovative approaches to population health and sports medicine. A graduate of New Mexico State University, he has built an extraordinary career spanning professional sports, secondary schools, clinical practice, and private practice leadership. His accomplishments include co-founding Innovate AT, establishing new pathways for athletic trainers to serve as educators in New Mexico schools, creating the Ultimate Sports Physical & Sports Health Expo, and founding [Just Change](#), a nonprofit dedicated to advocacy in healthcare, education, and social transformation. While David's résumé is remarkable, those who know him best recognize his unwavering commitment to servant leadership, collaboration, and creating opportunities for others. His vision has consistently challenged the profession to think differently, embrace innovation, and focus on increasing the value athletic trainers bring to patients, employers, and communities. David's election is not only a personal achievement but also a point of pride for the entire Rocky Mountain District. His leadership reflects the strength, dedication, and innovation that have long characterized District 7, and his presidency provides an opportunity for our region's voice to help shape the future of athletic training nationwide. Please join the RMATA Board of Directors in congratulating President-elect David Gallegos on this historic accomplishment.

We look forward to supporting his vision for the profession and celebrating the many contributions he will undoubtedly make as the first NATA President from District 7. **RMATA Passion**



SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER



Children's Hospital Colorado

2026 Annual Clinical Symposium

A New Tradition Begins

The 2026 RMATA Annual Clinical Symposium marked the first iteration of an exciting new model in which one of our member state associations serves as co-host for the district meeting. Designed to strengthen member engagement, increase accessibility, showcase regional expertise, and further connect athletic trainers across District 7, this initiative will rotate among Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. Colorado proved to be the perfect inaugural co-host, and Colorado College provided a unique backdrop as more than 250 athletic trainers, educators, students, researchers, and industry partners gathered for a weekend of education, collaboration, and professional growth.

Highlights included the Early and Emerging Professionals (EEP) Breakfast, where students and athletic trainers connected with seasoned professionals for mentorship and networking; the COPA Meet & Greet; the always-popular Exhibitors' Social; and the Annual RMATA Cornhole Tournament, which brought members together for an evening of friendly competition and camaraderie.

RMATA also strengthened its commitment to member well-being as 16 athletic trainers completed AT Cares Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training, expanding our district's capacity to provide peer support following critical incidents.

The symposium was honored to welcome NATA Executive Director Mollie Pillman and NATA President AJ Duffy, who engaged directly with members, discussed national initiatives, and reinforced NATA's ongoing advocacy for the athletic training profession.

Additional highlights included a live Colorado Athletic Trainers' Association Secondary Schools Committee Podcast, an outstanding Free Communications Session showcasing research and innovation from across District 7, and countless opportunities for members to reconnect, collaborate, and build lasting professional relationships.

The success of our first rotating co-host symposium demonstrated the strength of collaboration between RMATA and our state associations. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Colorado Athletic Trainers' Association, Colorado College, our volunteers, presenters, exhibitors, sponsors, and every attendee for making this inaugural model such a tremendous success. We look forward to continuing this tradition as future symposiums travel throughout District 7.



Keynote Speaker Announced

Ken Crenshaw to Headline the 2027 RMATA Annual Clinical Symposium

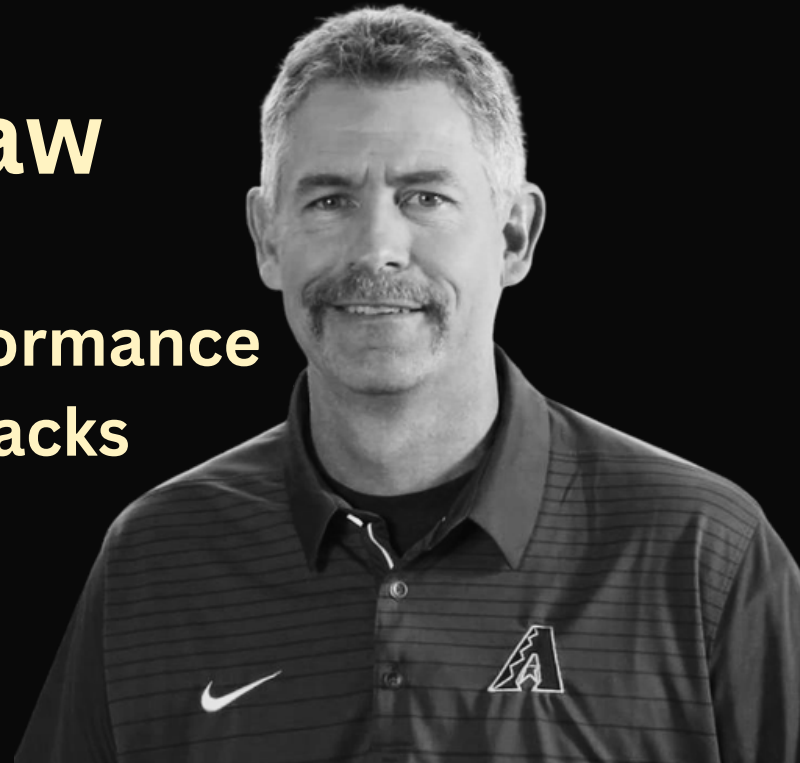
The Rocky Mountain Athletic Trainers' Association is proud to announce Ken Crenshaw, Director of Sports Medicine & Performance for the Arizona Diamondbacks, as the Keynote Speaker for the 2027 RMATA Annual Clinical Symposium in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

With nearly four decades of experience in professional baseball, Crenshaw is widely recognized as one of the profession's premier leaders in sports medicine and human performance. Before assuming his current role with the Diamondbacks, he spent 12 seasons as the club's Head Athletic Trainer and previously served in leadership positions with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, Atlanta Braves, and Pittsburgh Pirates organizations. Throughout his career, he has earned numerous honors, including Major League Baseball Athletic Training Staff of the Year and the Dick Martin Athletic Training Staff of the Year.

A native of Carrizozo, New Mexico, and graduate of New Mexico State University, Crenshaw has never lost sight of his Rocky Mountain roots. Today, he is known not only for building elite sports medicine and performance teams, but also for developing people. His philosophy centers on trust, collaboration, servant leadership, and creating environments where individuals and teams can thrive. As Crenshaw recently shared, "There's more power in the group than there is in me," a mindset that has shaped successful organizations throughout his career.

Please join us in Albuquerque, June 4–6, 2027, as we welcome one of the profession's most respected leaders to the RMATA Annual Clinical Symposium. We are honored to have Ken Crenshaw share his experiences, his leadership philosophy, and his vision for the future of sports medicine with District 7.

Ken Crenshaw
Director
Sports Medicine & Performance
Arizona Diamondbacks



State Legislative Grants



The RMATA is Proud to Offer a New Member Benefit to Assist Our States with Their Legislative and Advocacy Efforts

To strengthen legislative efforts across District 7, the RMATA Board of Directors is proud to introduce the State Legislative Grant Program, a new initiative designed to provide dedicated financial support to each of our five state associations.

Recognizing that successful advocacy begins at the state level, the program provides every eligible state association with a \$2000 base legislative grant supplemented by \$3 per certified member. This shared-investment model encourages state associations to continue developing grassroots advocacy efforts while providing meaningful financial resources to advance legislative priorities.

For 2025 and 2026, the RMATA has committed almost \$30,000 in legislative grant funding:

Arizona:	\$3,326 (25)	\$3,299 (26)	= \$6,625
Colorado:	\$3,413 (25)	\$3,383 (26)	= \$6,796
New Mexico:	\$2,372 (25)	\$2,381 (26)	= \$4,753
Utah:	\$2,984 (25)	\$2,990 (26)	= \$5,974
Wyoming:	\$2,192 (25)	\$2,192 (26)	= \$4,384
			\$28,532

These funds may be used to support a variety of advocacy initiatives, including grassroots organizing, coalition building, legislative education, state lobby days, legal expenses related to state legislation, and participation in legislative training programs.

By investing directly in our state associations, RMATA is helping ensure that athletic trainers throughout Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming have the resources needed to advocate for our profession and the patients we serve. Together, we are building a stronger voice for athletic training across District 7.



ANNUAL CLINICAL SYMPOSIUM June 4-6 | 2027



Investing in the Future

Young Professionals Empowerment Fund

The RMATA's [Young Professionals Empowerment Fund](#) was established to support the professional growth of athletic trainers in the early stages of their careers. Through financial assistance, the fund helps emerging professionals pursue leadership opportunities, continuing education, and experiences that will strengthen both their careers and the athletic training profession throughout District 7.

Congratulations to our 2026 Young Professionals Empowerment Fund recipients: Zachary Russell, Robert Prince, Nathaniel Matis and Ky Karlik.

If you are an athletic trainer early in your career, we encourage you to watch for the 2027 Young Professionals Empowerment Fund application announcement. Whether your goal is to attend a conference, pursue professional development, or take the next step in your leadership journey, the RMATA is committed to investing in your success.

LEGACY LINK

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Sign up to be a part of our mentorship program today!



[STUDENT SIGN UP](#)[CERTIFIED SIGN UP](#)

The Man Behind the Curtain: Dr. Mitch Barnhart



If you've attended an RMATA Annual Clinical Symposium, you've benefited from the work of **Dr. Mitch Barnhart**.

Alongside fellow Audio Visual Assistant **Robert Lopez-Babin**, Mitch plays an essential role in delivering the high-quality educational experience our members have come to expect. Armed with a wealth of AV knowledge, Mitch hustles between general sessions, breakout rooms, and special programming to keep presentations running smoothly. His work begins early alongside the programming crew, setting up rooms, testing equipment, and supporting speakers and volunteers throughout the symposium.

Mitch's work doesn't end when the final session concludes. He also prepares and packages symposium recordings, helping RMATA extend our educational programming to virtual learners across District 7 and beyond. Our Annual Clinical Symposium simply wouldn't be the same without Mitch's expertise, energy, and dedication. We are equally grateful to Robert Lopez-Babin for his partnership and contributions to the AV team, helping ensure another successful symposium year after year.

Thank you, Mitch and Robert, for everything you do behind the scenes for the RMATA!

The RMATA Sponsors Three Members for the NATA Leadership Institute

The RMATA is proud to invest in the future of our profession by sponsoring **Ashley Sillick**, **Monica Ortiz**, and **Carley Parkinson** to participate in the [NATA Leadership Institute](#)

The NATA Leadership Institute is a year-long leadership development program that prepares athletic trainers to become effective leaders in their workplaces, communities, and professional associations. Through monthly leadership seminars, one-on-one mentorship, networking opportunities, and the completion of a quality improvement project, participants develop the skills needed to lead with confidence and purpose.

By covering the registration costs for three RMATA members annually, the Association is removing a significant financial barrier and ensuring District 7 continues to have a strong voice in the next generation of athletic training leadership. Ashley, Monica, and Carley will return to their state associations, employers, and RMATA with new perspectives, enhanced leadership skills, and innovative ideas that will strengthen our profession for years to come.

Please join us in congratulating Ashley, Monica, and Carley on their selection as RMATA's sponsored participants in this prestigious leadership program. We look forward to following their journey over the coming year and celebrating the impact they will undoubtedly have on the profession.

Applications for the 2027 RMATA Leadership Institute Sponsorship will be announced in the coming months. If you are passionate about serving the profession and growing as a leader, we encourage you to apply. The next generation of RMATA leadership starts with opportunities like this.

The RMATA's Newest Standing Committee

The RMATA Board of Directors is excited to announce the establishment of the [Professional Engagement Committee](#), the association's newest standing committee.

Originally formed as a task force, the group demonstrated tremendous success by identifying member needs and developing meaningful programming focused on professional growth, mentorship, and engagement. Their efforts have included member needs assessments, virtual educational programming, and the creation of scholarship opportunities that have enabled early career athletic trainers to attend the RMATA Annual Clinical Symposium.

As a standing committee, the Professional Engagement Committee will continue to build on that momentum by expanding mentoring opportunities, developing innovative educational programming, strengthening leadership pathways, and ensuring RMATA remains responsive to the evolving needs of members throughout every stage of their careers. The committee will also work intentionally to engage underserved populations within the profession and create meaningful opportunities for connection and involvement across District 7.

This transition represents RMATA's continued commitment to investing in its greatest resource: its members. We extend our sincere appreciation to PEC Committee Co-chairs, Dr. Kelsey Picha and Dr. Allyssa Memmini, as well as every member of the Professional Engagement Task Force whose vision, dedication, and hard work laid the foundation for this exciting new chapter.

We look forward to the positive impact the Professional Engagement Committee will have as it continues to strengthen our profession and foster an engaged, connected, and thriving RMATA community.

Celebrating Excellence: 2026 RMATA Honors & Scholarship Recipients

Each year, the Rocky Mountain Athletic Trainers' Association recognizes members and students whose commitment to service, education, leadership, and academic excellence strengthens our profession. The 2026 RMATA Honors & Awards recipients exemplify the very best of athletic training, and we are proud to recognize their outstanding achievements.

Congratulations to **Jenna Walker**, recipient of the Special Recognition Award, which honors an RMATA member whose exceptional service has made a lasting impact on the Association and its members at the state, district, or national level.

We are also pleased to recognize **Hayley Root** as the recipient of the Distinguished Educator Award. This prestigious award celebrates educators who have demonstrated a sustained record of excellence in teaching, mentoring, and advancing athletic training education while making significant contributions to the profession over many years.

RMATA is equally proud to invest in the future of athletic training through its annual scholarship program. Congratulations to our 2026 scholarship recipients:

Bill Lyons Scholarship | **Azure Ries** | University of Utah
Dan Libera Scholarship | **Laura Gomez** | Colorado State University Pueblo
Sue Hillman Scholarship | **Sone Osbourn** | University of Utah
Tow Diehm Scholarship | **Alison Call** | Brigham Young University

These recipients represent the future of athletic training and embody the dedication, leadership, and pursuit of excellence that define the RMATA community. Congratulations to each of our 2026 award and scholarship winners, and thank you for your continued contributions to advancing athletic training throughout the Rocky Mountain District.



Thank You to Our Sponsors!



The District 7 Quiz Bowl Team

Rebecka Shaffer, Carly Johns & Asley Araiza



Get Involved with RMATA | Share Your Talents!



The Rocky Mountain Athletic Trainers' Association is powered by the dedication, expertise, and passion of its members. Whether you have a few hours to lend or are looking for a longer-term leadership opportunity, we invite you to become part of the team that helps shape the future of athletic training across our district.

Volunteers are needed for standing committees, special projects, and short-term tasks throughout the year. Whether your interests lie in education, advocacy, communications, research, student engagement, event planning, or another area, we'd love to connect you with opportunities that match your skills, experience, and availability.

No matter where you are in your career, your talents can make a meaningful difference. Together, we can strengthen our profession, better serve our members, and continue advancing athletic training throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

Interested in volunteering? Contact RMATA Secretary, Justin Segotta at RMATAsecretary@gmail.org

Technology Grant Awarded to the AZATA

The Long-Standing Grant Program Serves to Support State Association Needs

The Rocky Mountain Athletic Trainers' Association is pleased to announce that the Arizona Athletic Trainers' Association (AzATA) has been awarded a 2026 RMATA State Technology Grant in the amount of \$4124.06 to enhance the technology infrastructure supporting its educational programming and future RMATA Annual Clinical Symposia.

The RMATA State Technology Grant Program was established to help member state associations purchase and maintain technology that strengthens educational opportunities and improves member engagement. Through a competitive application process, proposals are evaluated based on demonstrated need, clearly defined objectives, fiscal responsibility, and the anticipated benefit to the state association and the district as a whole.

The AzATA's proposal focused on expanding its audiovisual capabilities to better support hybrid educational programming and create a more efficient, portable system for conference breakout sessions. The funding will allow the AzATA to acquire specialized equipment that reduces setup time, improves the learning experience for attendees, and supports future RMATA Annual Clinical Symposia by providing equipment that can be shared with host states throughout District 7.

RMATA congratulates AzATA on receiving this award and looks forward to seeing the lasting impact these technology investments will have on educational programming across Arizona and throughout the Rocky Mountain District.

The CATA Secondary School Committee Podcast

Looking for an easy way to stay current on the issues impacting athletic trainers in the secondary school setting while earning free CEUs? The Colorado Athletic Trainers' Association [Secondary Schools Committee Podcast](#) has you covered!

A special thank you to the podcast team for their continued commitment to advancing the profession and for hosting a fantastic live conversation during the RMATA Annual Clinical Symposium with NATA President AJ Duffy and NATA Executive Director Mollie Pillman.





Active Release Techniques is the leading provider of non-invasive treatment for soft-tissue and nerve disorders. Our seminars teach providers how to evaluate and treat soft-tissue dysfunction with precision - improving recovery timelines, reducing pain, and restoring function and movement. Whether it's helping an athlete return to peak performance or enabling an employee to work pain-free, ART is helping make measurable differences in real lives every day.



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AT CLINIC NOW is redefining how athletic training services can be delivered.

Our virtual and hybrid staffing models provide the only truly scalable solution for schools, colleges, and universities facing athletic trainer staffing shortages.

Through our partnership with **WaveOn Health**, we are improving access to care, enhancing student-athlete safety, and helping close critical staffing gaps.

CONTACT JOE FRIEDRICH, MA, ATC, CSCS | INFO@PTSERVICESUSA.COM

Contact Joe Friedrich, MA, ATC, CSCS | INFO@PTSERVICESUSA.COM

Call for Proposals: 2027 Annual Clinical Symposium

The NMATA/RMATA Annual Clinical Symposium Programming Committee is now accepting abstract proposals for the [2027 Annual Clinical Symposium](#), to be held June 4–6, 2027, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

We invite clinicians, educators, researchers, and athletic training students to share their expertise by presenting innovative, evidence-based content that advances athletic training practice. Proposals are being accepted for general sessions, breakout lectures, hands-on workshops, and athletic training student presentations. Sessions may be 30, 60, 90, or 120 minutes, inclusive of a 10-minute question-and-answer period.

Based on member feedback, priority programming areas include:

- Hands-on manual therapy, new modalities, and emergency management workshops
- Special populations and emerging practice settings
- Sports nutrition
- Sport psychology
- NIL and its impact on athletic healthcare
- Communication strategies
- Evaluation of the knee, hip, spine, and shoulder
- Environmental illnesses

Abstract submissions are due by September 30, 2026. Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with presenters notified of programming decisions in December 2026.

Whether you're an experienced presenter or sharing your expertise for the first time, we encourage you to contribute to what promises to be an outstanding educational program.

Submit your proposal using the [In-Person](#) or [On-Demand](#) Abstract Proposal forms.

For questions, please contact the ACS Programming Committee at acschair@rmata.org



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NATA Research & Education Foundation District 7 Director
Sheri Lampin 719-482-4057 sherilampin@gmail.com

Investing in the Future of Athletic Training

The strength of our profession depends on more than day-to-day patient care, it depends on our collective investment in its future. Two of the most meaningful ways RMATA members can help advance athletic training are by supporting the NATA Research & Education Foundation and NATAPAC.

The NATA Foundation is the profession's only philanthropic organization dedicated exclusively to advancing athletic training through research and education. Since 1991, Foundation supporters have funded more than 2,100 student scholarships, awarded 429 research grants, supported thousands of scientific presentations, developed evidence-based resources, and helped shape the future of patient care. Every contribution helps expand the knowledge base of athletic training, support future leaders, and improve outcomes for the physically active populations we serve. [Celebrate year 35!](#)

At the same time, NATAPAC provides athletic trainers with a unified voice in Washington, D.C. As the National Athletic Trainers' Association's nonpartisan political action committee, NATAPAC supports candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate who understand the value of athletic trainers and the issues affecting our profession. Legislative advocacy is essential to protecting and advancing athletic training at the federal level. [Contribute today!](#)

Whether your passion is advancing research and education, strengthening our legislative voice, or both, your support makes a difference. Every contribution, large or small, is an investment in the future of athletic training and the patients we serve.

Together, we can ensure our profession continues to grow, innovate, and lead for generations to come.

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SCAN TO JOIN:



Must be a US Citizen + NATA member and logged in to nata.org to contribute. Any contribution to the National Athletic Trainers' Association Political Action Committee is strictly voluntary and you have a right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. PAC funds will be used for political purposes and contributions will be made to candidates for federal office.



Please join me in congratulating **David Gallegos** on becoming the 17th President of the National Athletic Trainers' Association. David's leadership has deep roots in District 7, and we are all excited to see his collaborative, member-focused, "RMATA-style" leadership guiding our profession at the national level.

Celebrating our Volunteers

It is an honor to serve as President of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Trainers' Association. In these first couple of months in the role, I've been incredibly grateful for the remarkable legacy built by the volunteers who have served this Association before me.

No discussion of that legacy would be complete without recognizing Mr. **Jim Turk**! Jim has devoted an extraordinary portion of his professional career to the RMATA. As one of our longest-serving volunteers, his leadership, institutional knowledge, and commitment have helped shape the Association into what it is today. Those fortunate enough to work alongside Jim have benefited not only from his expertise, but also from his mentorship, thoughtful guidance, and genuine servant leadership.

One of the things I've enjoyed most about stepping into this role is getting an even closer look at the people doing the work behind the scenes. The RMATA doesn't just have committees, we have volunteers who consistently turn great ideas into meaningful opportunities for our members.

If you've interacted with the RMATA on social media, you've seen the outstanding work of **Ashley Sillick** and our [Public Relations Committee](#). Ashley and her team continue to elevate the visibility of our members and the profession throughout District 7. Rumor has it Ashley averaged more than 15,000 steps a day during the NATA Clinical Symposia and AT Expo making sure District 7 members and award winners received the recognition they deserved.

Our [Emerging and Early Professionals Committee](#), co-chaired by **Shannon Courtney** and **Hannah Duszynski**, continues to create opportunities for the next generation of leaders. Their Legacy Link Mentorship Program and Early Professional Empowerment Fund are already making a meaningful impact by connecting members across career stages and supporting professional growth. The committee is also planning another outstanding Early Professional event at the 2027 Annual Clinical Symposium, and I encourage our newest members to take advantage of everything they have to offer.

We're also fortunate to welcome **Monica Ortiz** as Chair of our [Elections Committee](#). Monica has already brought a thoughtful and constructive perspective to our election processes, and I know her leadership will continue strengthening one of our Association's most important responsibilities.

Our [Secondary Schools Committee](#), led by Jenny Van Meter, sponsored an outstanding Secondary Schools Roundtable at this year's Annual Clinical Symposium and has successfully revived the [Synergy Award](#). If you know a secondary school athletic trainer making a difference in your community, I hope you'll take a few minutes to nominate them this year.

Recognition is one of the greatest privileges we have as an Association, and **Michelle Gonzalez**, along with subcommittee chairs **Kiyun Lynch**, **Wayne Barger**, **Cammie Brost**, and **Mike Diede**, work tirelessly to ensure our members receive the recognition they deserve through the Honors and Awards program. Their efforts remind us that excellence deserves to be celebrated. [Nominate a deserving AT!](#)

Celebrating our Volunteers

One of the additions I'm most excited about is our newest standing committee, the [Professional Engagement Committee](#), co-chaired by **Kelsey Picha** and **Allyssa Memmini**. Their mission is both ambitious and timely: expanding mentorship opportunities, developing accessible educational programming, and helping us better serve underserved patient populations. I have no doubt this committee will have a lasting impact on the future of the RMATA.

Behind every successful organization is thoughtful financial stewardship. As we begin another budget cycle, our [Finance Committee](#), under the leadership of Secretary **Justin Segotta** and Treasurer **Natasha Anderson**, continues the important work of ensuring that every member dollar is invested wisely and strategically to support our mission.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't recognize **Megan Calderwood** and the entire [Annual Clinical Symposium Committee](#). While many members see the finished product each spring, few appreciate the countless hours of planning that happen throughout the year. Megan's leadership is supported by an outstanding team, including Program Subcommittee Chair **Daisuke Shibata**, who works to build an exceptional educational program; Sponsorships and Exhibit Hall Coordinator **Sheri Lampin**, whose efforts cultivate the partnerships that help make the symposium possible; Registration Coordinator **Patty Fahringer**, who keeps the member experience running smoothly from the moment attendees register; and Free Communications Coordinator **Hayley Root**, who showcases the outstanding scholarship and research of our members. A special high-five to **Chloe Deutsch & Lisa Chenoweth** who expertly fill in all the gaps and keep the ship steered! Together, this team is committed not only to providing exceptional educational programming, but also to creating an experience that keeps members coming back year after year.

Reading through these accomplishments, a common theme emerges. None of this work happens by accident. It happens because volunteers raise their hands, share their expertise, and commit themselves to making the RMATA better than they found it.

If you've ever thought about getting involved, I'd encourage you to say [yes](#). Whether it's joining a committee, mentoring a colleague, helping with a short-term project, or simply offering a fresh perspective, there is a place for you here. Some of our best leaders started with a simple phrase: "Sure, I can help with that."

Thank you to every RMATA volunteer for your time, your talent, and your commitment. You are the reason our Association continues to thrive, and I couldn't be more excited about what we'll accomplish together in the year ahead.

Jeb Davis
President
Rocky Mountain Athletic Trainers' Association

