

Joseph Shaffer Ph.D., ATC, LAT: Southwest Regional Representative

My name is Joseph (Joe) Shaffer and I am seeking the position of Southwest Regional Representative to further dedicate myself as an active PATS member and serve the profession, I am proud to be a part of, in any way I am able. As a Southwest Regional Representative, I plan to serve as a liaison for the Southwest Region and be an active voice for the people of this community and keep all aware of current activities and opportunities within the PATS.

I currently serve as the Clinical Education Coordinator and Assistant Professor within the Department of Athletic Training at Duquesne University and have been an Athletic Trainer for the past 19 years. With a passion for both clinical practice and education, Dr. Shaffer's journey has been marked by dedication to mentorship, program development, and community service.

My academic journey commenced with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science from Lock Haven University, followed by a Master of Science degree from West Virginia University. Never being satisfied with my commitment to advancing my knowledge and contributions to the athletic training profession led me to earn my Doctor of Philosophy degree from Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions.

Certified by the Board of Certification for Athletic Trainers and licensed by the state of Pennsylvania, I have over fifteen years of patient-centered care experience in diverse settings, including high schools, clinics, and collegiate environments.

Over the past 12 years, I have successfully transitioned into academia, holding leadership positions being a Clinical Coordinator and Program Director for CAATE accredited athletic training programs. My primary areas of instruction include orthopedic evaluation, administration, clinical education, and emergency care and prevention. I have also developed my contemporary expertise related to urgent and emergent care, orthopedic and functional movement assessment, clinical education and preceptor development, IPECP, and youth sports safety.

Outside academia, I am committed to service towards my community as I volunteer extensively in youth sports, serving as president and coach for various youth associations. I am also involved in professional service as an active member of numerous professional organizations, including the NATA, EATA, PATS, WVATA, AATE, ASAHP, NASM, AHA, and FMS. I am able to contribute within these organizations by serving on numerous committees and participating in state, regional, and national conferences. I also serve as a peer reviewer for the International Journal of Athletic Training and Therapy and the Journal of Sports Rehabilitation.

While I am very passionate about Athletic Training, I also prioritize spending quality time with my wife and two kids, as well as my friends. I also enjoy a round of golf when the time permits.