

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

INCLUSIVITY



CHAIRS

Mercedes Himmons

Bonnie Siple

(LGBTQ+ Subcommittee)



inclusivityPATS@gmail.com

Mercedes is from Philadelphia, PA. She went to Cal U for her Bachelor's & Master's. She recently finished up her PhD from Robert Morris. She first got involved with PATS in 2013 being a member on the Quarterly News Committee and has been on the committee since then. She was asked in June 2020 to chair the Inclusivity Committee, and has thoroughly enjoyed being involved in this capacity. She knows her input is heard and valued in PATS. She has enjoyed networking with so many amazing athletic trainers across the state.

Bonnie is an Associate Professor at Slippery Rock University, which is also her alma mater. In addition to teaching athletic training students and caring for student-athletes, Bonnie has spent most of her career working in social justice and advocacy in support of those who are minoritized. This inspired her to petition the PATS Executive Board to form the Diversity Committee in 2011, for which she served as the Chairperson. In 2018, Bonnie was appointed to serve as the PATS Liaison to the District 2 LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee. She is proud to collaborate with Mercedes to promote a spirit of diversity and inclusion within our athletic training membership across the commonwealth.

COMMITTEE


Board Liaison: Jamie Mansell

Members: Heidi Peters
Jeremy Simington Kelly Flemming
Sarah Coelho Shelby Claybaker
Victoria Lieble Kahlyn Ford

RESPONSIBILITIES


Responsible for educating the members on diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Commonwealth. The Inclusivity Committee houses the Diversity and LGBTQ+ Subcommittees. The committee is actively seeking resources to educate the members on increasing diversity and inclusion for Pennsylvania athletic trainers and athletic training programs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Committee members participated in the PATS Podcast (2 episodes) to educate the members on diversity and inclusion. They are compiling infographics to help with education on diversity and inclusion.

GOALS



Short-term: Hoping to send out 3 infographics to the members (diversity, equity, & inclusion, terminology, and how to have tough conversations) and participate in 2 diversity, equity, and inclusion educational opportunities (completed!). Long-term: Promote diversity & inclusion in athletic training in PA by pushing info in the Quarterly News and collaborate with other PATS committees and increasing retention.