

Erin Pletcher PhD, LAT, ATC, CSCS: Southeast Regional Representative

I am currently an Associate Professor in the Athletic Training Program at Thomas Jefferson University. As an educator, I was also an Assistant Professor in Rowan University's Athletic Training Program. My clinical experience includes serving as the Head Athletic Trainer and Assistant Director of Athletics at Philadelphia University. My educational journey began at the University of Pittsburgh, where I earned my Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Science and onto a Master of Science degree in Sport and Recreation Administration at James Madison University. Following my full-time clinical experience, I went back to the University of Pittsburgh, where I completed my Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Science.

I have been deeply committed to advancing the field of athletic training and supporting Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society (PATS). I have actively participated in PATS annual symposium as a speaker and participant. Additionally, I serve on the PATS Educators Committee, contributing to initiatives aimed at enhancing education, promoting best practices, and advocating for the profession. I have served as a reviewer for session proposals for EATA and NATA as well as NATA's Research and Education Foundation student writing contest.

With a background in academia, including teaching and research in athletic training programs, as well as my experience in athletic administration and clinical practice, I believe I bring a unique perspective to the role. I am dedicated to fostering collaboration among athletic trainers in the clinical setting and education. This position would allow me to develop and implement strategies to engage and connect with athletic trainers and students in the Southeast region of PA. By soliciting feedback, I can help address areas of concern to ensure PATS supports professional development of all its members to provide high-quality care to patients across the state.

I would also like to get athletic training students more involved locally. We could offer professional development and networking opportunities across programs to enhance their knowledge, skills, and competencies, preparing them for successful careers. Involvement in the state organization will also help athletic training students develop a strong sense of professional identity and belonging within the athletic training community.

Outside of my professional endeavors, I am a recreational runner and volunteer with Girls on the Run. I also seek out concerts in small, local venues where everyone is united by their shared love of live music.

My desire to serve as PATS Southeast Representative stems from a belief in the power of collective action and the importance of community involvement. I am eager to contribute my skills, insights, and perspectives to PATS, serving as a resource for fellow athletic trainers, advocating for their needs and interests, and fostering camaraderie and collaboration within the profession.