

Dr. Megan Bureau, PT, DPT, SCS has been a practicing physical therapist for the last 17 years. She currently holds the position of Director of Clinical Education as an Assistant Professor at Shenandoah University in the DPT program. Dr. Bureau is an ABPTS sports certified specialist. She continues to practice in the setting of outpatient sports/orthopedics. She has been an active member of the APTA and VPTA since she began as a PT student in 2001. Currently, she serves as a delegate for Virginia for the APTA HOD. She has been on the VPTA executive committee, board of directors, as well as on student relations committee. She most recently has been involved on a VPTA task force to identify PTA's as candidates to the Governor of Virginia for the Virginia Board of Physical Therapy. She has been an item writer for the FSBPT NPTE as well as an abstract reviewer for APTA's Education Leadership Conference. Her dedication and passion towards the profession have been awarded the APTA Emerging Leader Award (2011) as well as the VPTA Scott Sullivan Award (2015). Dr. Bureau's interests lie in the areas of student professional engagement, clinical education, as well as best practices for student success in clinical experiences. Dr. Bureau is currently a doctoral candidate for an EdD in Administrative Leadership.

***From your perspective, what is the biggest challenge of the profession?***

This is a critical time for our profession. The biggest challenges facing our profession are new models of payment and healthcare reform. Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants now have opportunities to be among the frontline of healthcare providers in interdisciplinary teams and this has been made abruptly relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic. The implications these changes have for our profession are significant. We also have opportunities to improve upon educational models (especially clinical training) as we position ourselves for the future. Also, we must continue to confront the challenges the profession encounters as we work towards ensuring that physical therapy practice remains a financially viable profession. Steps were begun with committing to transparency around

costs of PT programs; however, this is just the first step. These changes keep me excited for the future, and the role of Chief Delegate could not be more important than it is this year.

**Why do you want to serve in the capacity in which you are running for office?**

Running for Chief Delegate has been a consistent goal of mine as I feel it allows me the opportunity to be informed and involved with critical decision making and conversation as policies are created and debated to direct to work of the APTA Board of Directors. The position of delegate allows me to advocate in a frontline position with other components and delegates so that Virginia can continue to be a transformer in the profession of physical therapy. Serving in this capacity can help ensure that Virginia remains a vital delegation by supporting active participation in all aspects of the House process from proposing main motions and actively vetting candidates for national office, to being informed participants in the House.

**What experiences have you had in APTA, APTA, or other organizations that might help you in your elected position?**

Experiences that will assist in my success as the Virginia Chief Delegate include previous delegate experience in the APTA HOD 2012-2021, year-round involvement in the House of Delegate HUB including town halls, as well as my past experience on the VPTA executive committee, the board of directors, and also as a student advocate as part of the student relations committee. My current position as a Director of Clinical Education makes me an excellent candidate as I am closely involved with students as they not only enter into our entry-level program but also as they enter our profession. I am prepared and aware to advocate for our professionals across the lifespan of their careers in physical therapy (students to licensed professionals), as well as those external stakeholders for whom we are most dedicated.

