

My name is Ted Compton. I grew up in a military family and moved around the country as a child. Every new place I lived provided me an opportunity to reinvent myself and I believe that experience has made me into an agile, adaptable, and conscientious adult. It also formed my belief that we must seek constant growth and improvement in our lives and seek to improve the lives of those around us.

After obtaining a bachelor's degree in accounting from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania in 2000, I moved to the DC metro area to start my career with PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP (PwC). I stayed with the firm for almost 18 years until they sold their public sector practice to a private equity group in the Spring of 2018. With that transition from PwC to Guidehouse LLP, the new name for PwC's public sector practice, I decided that it was time for me to, once again, reinvent myself. In September 2018, I left public accounting and consulting to embark on a new chapter where I could focus my energy into improving the lives of everyday people.

The following fall, I entered Northern Virginia Community College's (NOVA's) Physical Therapist Assistant Program and set out to make my second career as successful as my first. I sought every opportunity to learn as much as I could about the profession of physical therapy, including volunteering to be NOVA's SPTA liaison with VPTA's Student Special Interest Group, then later serving as the SPTA representative on the SSIG. In January 2020, I attended Lobby Day in Richmond, lobbying on behalf of SB 192, a bill supporting Fair Copay for Physical Therapy services. I was later nominated to run as the Director of SPTA Relations with the APTA Student Assembly, and although I was unsuccessful in my campaign, I found a role as the Student Liaison to the Mid-Atlantic Region PTA Caucus. By the time I was ready to graduate from NOVA's PTA program, I had been awarded NOVA's Service, Engagement, Academics, and Leadership (SEAL) award, NOVA's most prestigious college-wide award; the Medical Education Campus Student Life - Outstanding Student Leader award; and earned distinction on my final CPI for Self-Assessment and Lifelong Learning.

Now, as a 43-year-old husband and father of two girls, my family has become my priority. I want this transition in my life to be an inspiration for my daughters and to show them that you can always choose to do or be more than you are today. I am entering this new career with the momentum of my past experiences and know that I have a passion that can help the APTA and VPTA to push the industry forward in the US and Virginia.

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

I believe that there are a number of areas that the profession has room for growth and change, but the biggest challenge in my mind continues to be a patient centric issue. My experience going through physical therapy prior to embarking on my career change is what drove me to career in physical therapy. It was during that treatment that I recognized that I was extremely fortunate to be able to afford the approximately \$110 co-pay my insurance required. As I enter the healthcare world, it has become clear to me that if barriers continue to exist that prevent patients' ability to access physical therapy services, the profession will be slow to grow, limiting the impact its practitioners can make in people's lives and the APTA's influence on legislation.

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

Prior to starting my first semester at Northern Virginia Community College's PTA program, I looked on APTA's website to see what opportunities existed for PTAs within the association and for the leadership roles PTAs served. Aside from the PTA Caucus, there was nothing. There was not a single PTA in a leadership role outside of the PTA Caucus. I was extremely excited last fall when I learned that the APTA was revising their by-laws and the potential existed to grant PTAs voting rights in the House of Delegates, thereby increasing the influence and leadership opportunities a PTA can hold. I think that it is important for PTAs to create as many opportunities to be leaders as possible, while also using that platform to encourage the next generation of PTAs to actively participate in the APTA and VPTA by better articulating "what's in it for them." I think that as a professional with 18 years of leadership experience and as a recent graduate, I am uniquely positioned to make an impact on both of those objectives.

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

From December 2020 through present, I have served as the student liaison to the Mid-Atlantic regional PTA Caucus, attending monthly meetings, meeting each of the PTA caucus reps, and learning what is required of PTA Caucus reps. This experience directly helps me to understand what my role may consist of, as well as gives me an anticipation of the amount of time the position could require of me.

In August 2020, I was nominated to run for the Director of SPTA Relations on the APTA Student Assembly. While I was not successful in running for the position, I began to develop a network within the APTA and has helped prepare me for using social media to advocate for the profession and encouraging membership involvement within the association.

In January 2020, I participated in VPTA's efforts at Lobby Day in Richmond with a fellow student and two of my professors. While our lobby efforts advocating for fair co-pay may not have been successful that year, the experience was successful in that it inspired me to get more involved with VPTA.

Lastly, in my time as an auditor and consultant, I had the opportunity to develop an outstanding work ethic and an appreciation of working with multi-disciplinary teams to achieve successes. I believe that I would bring a unique perspective to the APTA and VPTA, based on my background leading large teams that span various functional skillsets to drive change and improve operational outcomes.