

APTA Wisconsin Candidate Questions

Name and Credentials:

McKayla Figueroa, PT, DPT, ATC

Board Certified Women's Health Clinical Specialist

Certificate of Advanced Practice Physical Therapy in Obstetric Health

Education:

Marquette University

- Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training (2017)
- Doctor of Physical Therapy (2019)

Employer and Position:

Aurora Health Care

Senior Physical Therapist

DIRECTOR

1. Please describe the leadership skills and experiences that qualify you to serve as APTA Wisconsin Director.

For the past four years, I have served as the Southeast District Chair for APTA Wisconsin. In this role, I am a voting member of the APTA Wisconsin Board of Directors and serve on both the Finance Committee and the Professional Development Committee at the state level. At the district level, I work closely with an executive committee to plan and host approximately three continuing education (CEU) events each year, delivered either in person or virtually. In addition, our district annually presents two awards: the *Golden Goniometer Award*, recognizing outstanding student involvement at the district level, and the *Mary Pat Murray Award*, honoring a Physical Therapist or Physical Therapist Assistant in the Southeast District for their clinical excellence.

Within Aurora Health Care, I contribute to the Pelvic Health Practice Council as part of a select group of clinicians supporting statewide and local initiatives related to pelvic health practice. I lead the Journal Club Workgroup and actively participate in the Research, Pregnancy/Postpartum, and Mentoring Workgroups (previously serving as lead of the Research Workgroup). I was also part of a task force last year that evaluated and updated clinical competencies for the pelvic health service line to enhance consistency and quality of care. Additionally, I serve as the documentation expert at my clinic, providing support to colleagues through EMR updates and strategies to improve documentation efficiency.

2. What do you believe are the most pressing concerns currently facing APTA Wisconsin and describe potential strategies to take on these challenges.

One area of concern that APTA Wisconsin is currently facing is membership. For the past three years, I have served on the APTA Wisconsin Membership Committee, which has been working diligently to increase membership across the state. Through this work, we have identified that early career professionals represent a large number of our dropped members. I believe that targeting this group and seeking to understand the barriers they face in becoming members or maintaining membership will be key to advancing our goal of increased membership in the Association. As someone who is now

transitioning out of the early career phase and has recently navigated its challenges, I feel well-equipped and enthusiastic about potentially bringing that perspective to the Board as a Director.

Another important strategy for supporting membership growth is fostering stronger engagement with Student Physical Therapists and Student Physical Therapist Assistants whether that is through the Student SIG, attendance at district or state-level meetings, or joining committees. I've had the pleasure of working alongside students in several committees and have found their voices to be powerful and essential. Engaging students early and empowering them with knowledge about how APTA Wisconsin can support their personal and career growth is critical. Their involvement not only strengthens the Association but also helps cultivate long-term members and future leaders.