

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Name: Kate Bennett

Credentials: PT, DPT, ATC, Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Neurologic Physical Therapy

Education: MPT – Marquette University
tDPT – College of St. Scholastica

Employer and Position: Concordia University Wisconsin - Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy

Marshfield Clinic Health System – prn physical therapist

1. How would you identify and mentor new leaders within APTA Wisconsin?

In my experience, I find that many physical therapists as well as physical therapy students, don't self-identify as leaders until they have someone who either identifies their leadership skills and appoints the person to a position of leadership, or has a mentor who gives them the opportunity and encouragement to grow their leadership skills. We need leaders within APTA Wisconsin who come from all parts of the state, who practice in diverse settings, and who bring a combination of experience and innovation. Leaders will be individuals who are accountable, adaptable, strong communicators, and most of all passionate about our profession. Identifying physical therapists who have these qualities stems from conversations, encouragement, and opportunities. Mentoring needs to be ongoing to continue to inspire emerging leaders through collaboration, motivation, and guidance.

2. What skills and experiences qualify you to serve on the Nominating Committee?

I am in a unique position working in an academia in the Southeast part of the state, and practicing in Central WI, which helps bring me in contact with a larger body of physical therapists. To be an effective faculty member, I have needed to develop communications skills, organization, and vision for the future of the profession. Working in academia, I am able to see first hand the work of emerging leaders and help fuel their passion to give back to the profession. I have experience advising students which includes motivation, adaptability, and problem solving. In my academic role, I am fortunate to be able to include students in research projects which allows me to mentor leadership skills such as time management, communication, and situational leadership.

I continue to maintain clinical practice and am able to bring new and emerging ideas to the clinicians I work with. In doing so, I try to encourage clinicians to be involved within the profession and to stay current with evidence and evolving practice needs.

I believe that seeing faculty involvement in leadership and service serves as a role model for early career clinicians to continue participation in the APTA. I would be honored to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee.