Don’t Let Your Status Expire

Renew Your BOC Application by the Deadline To Offer Continuing Education in 2016

Do you offer live events, home study programs, EBP programs or some combination thereof to Athletic Trainers? If so, your 2016 BOC Approved Provider Renewal Application is due by December 31, 2015, or at least 4 weeks prior to your 2016 event.

Providers with approved applications will be able to offer continuing education units (CEUs) to Athletic Trainers in 2016. Otherwise, BOC Approved Provider status will expire December 31, 2015.

Organizations whose status expires at the end of this year will have a lapse in their status effective January 1, 2016, and should not use their BOC Approved Provider ID while expired.

Keep in mind that ATs who are late completing their continuing education requirements will need access to programs in 2016. If your application is not approved on time, meaning your provider status becomes Expired, ATs will not be able to count CEUs acquired through your program.

As a BOC Approved Provider, your CEUs are important to Athletic Trainers. To avoid any lapse in your status, and to continue to offer CEUs in the New Year, complete the online 2016 BOC Approved Provider Renewal Application today.

For information on webinars and resources available to help you complete the renewal application, please see page 4 of this issue.

Featured Stories

- Letter from the Professional Development Coordinator
- Tips from a BOC Approved Provider
- BOC Resources for Completing the 2016 Renewal Application
- BOC News in Brief
- Complete Your 2016 Renewal Application with this Step-by-Step Guide
- Featured AP: Bouddreaux Family Enterprises, LLC
- An AT for an NFL Team
- New BOC Approved Providers

FOLLOW US:
Letter from the Professional Development Coordinator

Dear BOC Approved Provider,

Big changes are around the corner as we prepare to implement the 2016 Standards for BOC Approved Providers. Even more importantly, we want to make sure you are able to successfully offer continuing education programs to Athletic Trainers into the New Year.

You must complete the 2016 BOC Approved Provider Renewal Application to protect your provider status. Once you have a future program developed that complies with the 2016 BOC Approved Provider Handbook and the Standards for BOC Approved Providers, use that program to complete the renewal application. Submit your application a minimum of 4 weeks prior to the start date of your program to allow time for review. Do not use your BOC Approved Provider ID while in an expired status.

In fact, it is important to note that even if your Evidence Based Practice (EBP) and home study programs expire at the end of 2016, you must still complete the 2016 provider renewal application. Expiration dates for EBP home study programs cover only the program, not your BOC Approved Provider status.

Because your program's success is important to the athletic training community, this AP Update includes links to a number of resources and recorded webinars designed to help your program comply with the 2016 Standards. Plus, this issue also provides question-by-question tips for completing the renewal application for 2016.

Finally, we extend our thanks to Dr. Jennifer M. Medina McKeon, who kindly agreed to share the lessons she learned while successfully applying to offer EBP continuing education programs. We are sure you will find her tips helpful as you develop your own EBP programming.

As always, I want to thank you for being a BOC Approved Provider and for your dedication to the athletic training profession. Please don't hesitate to connect with us here at the BOC with your questions.

Jessica Roberts, MS Ed, ATC
Professional Development Coordinator
1. Developing a Presentation

For Clinical EBP programs, the application asks for a PICO (Patient/Population, Intervention, Comparison/Control, Outcome of Interest) question to be developed. In EBP, “intervention” does not necessarily mean a therapeutic exercise, physical agent/modality or medication. Intervention simply means the factor that is being controlled for. In other words, it is just an independent variable. The intervention can be exposures, a diagnostic test or an economic factor.

2. Call the BOC EBP representative

Jessica is the BOC EBP representative and the liaison between you, the applicant, and the EBP Review Committee. Discuss what you are trying to do with her; she will be able to better relay your ideas that may be, on paper, unclear to the committee.

As written, the current application appears to be restrictive, when in truth other creative ways of generating good EBP CEU packages just have not been thought up yet. The committee will hear these ideas, and the liaison can help convey your message.

3. You only have to do what you say you will do

This seems obvious, but can make your life easier or harder, depending. A participant assessment that measures the learning objectives is required for each EBP program. While the assessment is required, it does not have to be lengthy and burdensome. Providers are not forced to plan a “big test,” develop a stringent metric, implement a grading procedure or know what to do if participants don’t reach that metric, etc.

At the end of the day, the assessment must measure the learning objectives. The criteria for completing the assessment can be determined by the provider. The BOC offers a resource titled Example Assessment Methods for EBP Programs to aid with appendix B4 on the application.

4. As of now, “sharing” presentations doesn’t make too much sense

Right now, there is no “cheap and easy” way for an instructor to re-use a program through different provider organizations. A program approved for use by Provider #1 can be shared by Provider #2, but one of the following circumstances has to be met:

- Provider #2 resubmits the program for BOC review. Appendices B4 and B5 are typically unique to each organization and most likely must be changed. The BOC helps with an expedited review if the majority of the program content is the same as the previously-approved application. Application fees apply (making this not the “cheap” way, but fairly easy); OR,
- Provider #1 remains as the provider and agrees to perform all administrative activities associated with the program. This includes tracking attendees, conducting participant assessments, maintaining all records, and providing participants with personalized CEU certificates using Provider #1’s BOC Approved Provider information. This is not the “easy” way, at least not for Provider #1, but it is the cheaper way.

5. Get the biggest bang for your buck

Be sure to consider that the Application Fee Schedule goes up in increments of 3 CEUs. In other words, an application for a 0.25-3.0 credit program is (currently) $55, a 3.25-6.0 is $110, etc. Try to get as many CEUs out of that $55 application as you can – fill up the full 3 hours, if possible.

6. Link to the BOC EBP Page

The BOC website has some pretty good materials to go on, including the applications, examples, an FAQ and some literature on EBP. It’s fairly well organized to find what you will need to get the application started.

Jennifer M. Medina McKeon, PhD, ATC, CSCS, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Exercise and Sport Sciences at Ithaca College.
BOC Resources for Completing the 2016 Renewal Application

Want to learn more about the *2016 Standards for BOC Approved Providers*? Ready to get started on your application? Here are some tools to help you take the next steps.

If you are ready to complete your application, we recommend you start with the applicant checklist, which provides an overview of the 6 essential sections of the *Standards for BOC Approved Providers*. Use the checklist to ensure you have the necessary policies, processes and evidence in place prior to submitting an application.

Plus, the BOC has numerous resources and recorded webinars to help you successfully complete the items you’ll need when submitting your application. The following items are available for download by visiting the BOC website.

### Provider Resources

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicable Section</th>
<th>Resource</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>2016 BOC Approved Provider Handbook</td>
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<td>All</td>
<td>BOC Approved Provider Non-Compliance Guidelines and Procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 1</td>
<td>Attendance Record</td>
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<td>Sections 1.3 &amp; 2.5</td>
<td>Conflict of Interest</td>
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<td>Section 1.7</td>
<td>Statement of Credit</td>
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<td>Section 2.3</td>
<td>Non-Discriminatory Practices</td>
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<td>Section 2.4</td>
<td>Speaker Release Form</td>
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<td>Section 3.4</td>
<td>Measurable Learning Objectives</td>
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<td>Section 4.1</td>
<td>Content Outline for RD/PA6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 5</td>
<td>Example Assessment Methods for CE Programs</td>
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<td>Section 5</td>
<td>Participant Assessment (Large CE Programs only)</td>
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<td>Section 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Combination Assessment and Evaluation (Large CE Programs only)</td>
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<td>Section 6</td>
<td>Program Evaluation</td>
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### Webinars

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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Looking Ahead: Compliance with the 2016 BOC Approved Provider Program Enhancements</td>
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<td>Standards 1 &amp; 2: Administration and Business Practices</td>
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<td>Standards 3 &amp; 4: Content, Development and Instruction</td>
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<td>Standards 5 &amp; 6: Assessment, Review and Evaluation</td>
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<td>Submitting a Successful BOC Approved Provider Application</td>
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All Athletic Trainers have CEUs due at the end of this year, and they are making their continuing education plans now! Are you having an event, or do you offer programs for Athletic Trainers? Now is a great time to get in front of them. Here’s how.

CONTACT MINDY TO FIND OUT HOW TO BE PART OF EACH ATHLETIC TRAINER’S CONTINUING EDUCATION PLAN THIS YEAR. CALL (402) 559-0091 OR EMAIL MINDYL@BOCATC.ORG.

**MAILING LISTS**

The BOC has the only complete and the cleanest list of Athletic Trainers. We can help your marketing piece make it to the mailboxes of the customers you want to reach.

**PUBLICATIONS**

*Cert Update* goes out to over 45,000 Athletic Trainers and athletic training students twice a year, via mail and email. We have ad spaces to fit any budget, starting at $270.

**EMAIL BLASTS**

Email more your thing? We have that too! We make it easy by sending the email out on your behalf and providing tracking reports after the send.

**WEBSITE**

With more than 180,000 page views a month, the BOC website is a prime location to meet Athletic Trainers where. Ads are available in a variety of sizes throughout the site, so your message can appear just where you need it.
All providers wishing to offer continuing education to Athletic Trainers in 2016 must complete the online BOC Approved Provider Renewal Application. The application requires responses to 18 questions. On the following page, you will find a view of the application form. Below are tips for each question to help simplify the process.

Applications are due by December 31, 2015, or at least 2-4 weeks prior to your 2016 event.

Q1: Enter or upload policies and procedures used to develop, administer, deliver, conduct and assess the program and participants (e.g., copyright, conflict of interest, non-discrimination)

If someone new were to take over your CE program, they may wonder where to start, or they may be unaware of the 2016 Standards. For this reason, you or your successor could find it helpful to have policies and procedures related to BOC requirements. A great tool to help you create policies and procedures is the 2016 BOC Approved Provider Handbook.

Q2: Enter or upload draft promotional material for the program

Promotional materials can be simple. They just need to state the following: learning objectives, intended audience, schedule or format, fee(s), cancellation/refund policy, instructors and their credentials, number of CEUs and any sponsors you may have.

Q3: Enter or upload draft statement of credit for the program (e.g., certificate of attendance or completion)

Your certificate of attendance can also be simple. It just needs to include the title of the activity, date of event, participant’s name, number of contact hours/CEUs, signature of the individual
## View of the online BOC Approved Provider Renewal Application

### Administration

**Q1**

**COMPLIANT**

Enter or upload policies and procedures used to develop, administer, deliver, conduct and assess the program and participants (e.g., conflict of interest, non-discrimination)

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<td></td>
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**Q2**

2nd Review - COMPLIANT

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Please correct and upload your promotional materials to include the following omitted items: Target Audience, Fee(s), and Cancellation/Refund Policy.

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<thead>
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<td><strong>Type</strong> pdf</td>
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**Q3**

**COMPLIANT**

Enter or upload draft statement of credit for the program (e.g., certificate of attendance or completion)

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<th>Enter or upload draft statement of credit for the program?</th>
<th>see attached</th>
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verifying attendance, BOC Approved Provider name, BOC Approved Provider logo and the following BOC Approved Provider CE statement:

Company Name (BOC AP# PXXXX) is approved by the Board of Certification, Inc. to provide continuing education to Athletic Trainers. This program is eligible for a maximum of # Category A hours/CEUs. ATs should claim only those hours actually spent in the educational program.

Q4: Enter or upload cancellation/refund policy
Your cancellation policy does not have to meet a specific standard. We just want to see you have one! If your event is free, your policy could be, “No cancellation or refund policy is needed at this time. In the event that we charge for a program in the future, a policy will be implemented.”

Q5: Enter or upload procedure for handling a grievance
Your grievance policy does not have to meet a specific standard. As with the above, we only require that you have one. It could be as simple as, “At the end of the program, participants will be able to document any grievances they encountered on their program evaluations. Each grievance will be handled on a case-by-case basis.”

Q6: Enter program title
Please make sure the answers for Q6-Q18 are for future programs. We would hate to have you make changes to a past program. The time you put into your application is important. We want it to be useful for you! This one program will be used as a “dry run” to make sure your organization can meet the 2016 Standards.

Q7: Select applicable domain(s) of athletic training
The domains you’ve selected should align with your program descriptions and objectives as provided in Q13.

Q8: Select appropriate level(s) of difficulty
The level of difficulty you’ve selected should align with your program descriptions and objectives as provided in Q13.

Q9: Select target audience(s)
Programs should be intended for the healthcare provider. Programs targeted at patients, parents, coaches, administrators or educators would not fulfill CE requirements.

Q10: Select instructional technique(s)
Your instructional technique does not have to meet a specific standard. However, the learning methods should correlate with the type of program. For example, your answer could be live lecture, home study, lab, etc.

Q11: Enter program instructor(s)
Only the name(s) of the instructor(s) for the specific program you are applying with should be given here. We do not need a list of all your 2016 instructors.

Q12: Enter or upload curriculum vitae/biography for each instructor to validate qualifications of education/experience
The instructor’s biography should show why this individual is qualified to teach your program. It should include experience, education and training relevant to the topic of your program.

Q13: Enter or upload a summary of the program that includes:
- Brief abstract or description
- Outline
- Objectives
- Program purpose, knowledge, competency or performance gap and why the content is important for Athletic Trainers
- Expected outcome(s)
- Educational materials offered to enhance participant learning
- Schedule
Just as outlined in the question, your response to this question needs to include the following:
1. Program description
2. Outline of topics covered
3. Measurable objectives
4. Needs analysis and why the content is important for ATs to know/learn
5. Expected outcome(s)
6. Additional educational materials used
7. Time-stamped schedule

Q14: Enter or upload participant assessment methods, collection and scoring policy
This policy should state how your program objectives will be measured. Many providers will use a quiz, in question and answer format, to measure objectives that state to “list” or “describe.” A rubric could be used when measuring whether an attendee is able to “demonstrate” or “perform” new knowledge or skills. An example of this policy is: “Objectives will be measured by using a pre/post quiz. A score of 75% will be required.”

Q15: Enter or upload a participant assessment for the program
This assessment should be an example of the tool described in your scoring policy from Q14. It could include a draft of the questions and answers used in a quiz or rubric.

Q16: Enter or upload how feedback from the learning assessment outcomes will be shared with each participant in an appropriate, timely and constructive manner
Your policy on assessment outcomes should state how feedback will be given to the participants of your program. In other words, how will they know what “grade” they got on your quiz? An example is: “Quiz questions will be discussed after the quizzes are collected.”

Q17: Enter or upload program evaluation
This should be a copy of the program evaluation. The evaluation could ask whether the program:
- Was applicable to the Athletic Trainer’s educational needs
- Was useful, comprehensive and appropriate in length
- Achieved its stated learning objectives
- Included effective teaching and learning methods
- Had quality and effective faculty
- Included appropriate learning assessments
- Displayed bias or commercialism

Q18: Enter or upload how feedback will be provided to instructors
Your instructor feedback policy does not have to meet a specific standard. It could be as simple as the following: “Feedback will be emailed to the instructor within 3 days following the event.”
Featured BOC Approved Provider

Boudreaux Family Enterprises, LLC

It is critical that Athletic Trainers are able to identify BOC Approved Providers when looking at advertisements or program materials. The BOC recognizes BOC Approved Providers who follow the guidelines set forth in the BOC Approved Provider Handbook. A BOC Approved Provider is featured in each issue of the AP Update.

This issue's featured BOC Approved Provider is Boudreaux Family Enterprises, LLC. As you can see in the materials below, the company adheres to the policies found in the BOC Approved Provider Handbook. The BOC asked JD Boudreaux, PT, ATC, LAT, SCS, to comment on the benefits of being a BOC Approved Provider. Boudreaux is a full-time clinician who wants to share evidence along with clinical expertise to other professionals.

Why did you become a BOC Approved Provider?
I became a BOC Approved Provider to share my knowledge and experience with Athletic Trainers and other healthcare providers. I have an extreme passion for lifelong learning. The last step of the evidence based process, and most often forgotten, includes disseminating outcomes of practice change to others. As I have progressed throughout my career, I have felt the passion to continue the pursuit of Evidence Based Practice (EBP) by disseminating various changes that have enhanced my success as a clinician. Although the courses help disseminate information to others, I have learned just as much from participant interaction while establishing key contacts to enhance my development as a sports medicine professional.

FEATURING PROVIDERS

If you would like to be considered for recognition as a Featured BOC Approved Provider, please submit your advertisements, evaluations and certificates of completion for review. You can email your electronic promotional materials to Provider@bocatc.org or mail your printed promotional materials to:

Board of Certification
Attn: Professional Development Coordinator
1415 Harney St, Suite 200
Omaha, NE 68102-2250

(Continued on next page)
How does complying with the 2016 Standards for BOC Approved Providers benefit your program?
The 2016 Standards are extremely close to the current EBP standards. While the 5 modules I developed had been previously approved for EBP credits, the transition to the 2016 Standards reaffirmed the importance of delivering evidence-based information to all participants. The webinars provided by the BOC were extremely informative and provided guidance to meet the new administrative standards required in 2016.

What tips do you have for providers applying to offer BOC Approved EBP Programs?
The BOC has many resources readily available to providers wanting to pursue EBP credit approval. It is imperative to review and become acquainted with the 2016 BOC Approved Provider Handbook. In addition, many sample forms, documents and checklists are available online as resources to assist in development of any program. The webinars outlining program enhancements provided by the BOC are very succinct and informative. Since the 2016 Standards are extremely close to the current EBP standards, providers may be able to obtain EBP credit approval by organizing the development of any course while completing a few additional steps outlined in the requirements. Finally, providers should not hesitate to contact the BOC office, as the staff has been readily available to answer any questions and assist throughout the entire process.

2015 BOC Holiday Closures
Ensure You're Aware of the Days
Thanksgiving | November 26
Day after Thanksgiving | November 27
Christmas Eve | December 24
Christmas | December 25
New Year’s Day | January 1, 2016

See Yourself Online!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BOC’S ONLINE ADVERTISING.

Call Today To Get Started!
Mindy Lindquist will work with you to help you get the most of your advertising dollars. Don’t delay, call (402) 559-0091 or email MindyL@bocatc.org.
New BOC Approved Providers

The BOC would like to welcome all new BOC Approved Providers since the Spring 2015 issue of the AP Update. We encourage you to contact the BOC office at any time with questions. We look forward to working with each of you.

AA Elite Coaching, LTD
Access Sports Medicine & Orthopaedics
Association of Clinical Excellence, LLC (ACE)
Boost Physical Therapy & Sports Performance
Bright Body Inc.
Bronson Health Care Group
Bryan Dorrel
California Chiropractic Association
Centra Care Health
Clinical Orthopaedic Society
Corpus Christi ISD Athletic Training
Dr. Ma’s Systemic Dry Needling
Dynavision International
Emory & Henry College
Evidence Based Fitness Academy, Inc. (EBFA)
Fascia Research Congress
Halifax Health Center for Sports and Family Medicine
HawkGrips
Healthy Running, LLP
Indiana Wesleyan University Athletic Training
Infinity Heath Education
Iron Body Studios LLC
John Hopkins Bloomberg Children’s Center
Kent State University
Mountain West Conference Association of Physicians and Certified Athletic Trainers
Movement Restoration LLC
MovementREV
National Sports Medicine Foundation
New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine
North Carolina of Sports Biomechanics
Northeastern University Department of Physical Therapy, Movement, and Rehabilitation Sciences
Penn State Health - St. Joseph
Perform Better Japan
Physical Therapy North
Princeton Physical Therapy Group
Samford University
Schneider Electric
Science of Running
SERC Physical Therapy
Sharon Regional Health System Sports Medicine
Shawnee Mission North High School
St. Luke’s University Health Network
The EDGE Performance Training
The Morales Method of Manual Therapy & Body Conditioning
TMI Sports Medicine
University of Idaho Athletic Training Program
University of Maine at Presque Isle
University of Missouri Health Care
University of South Florida Athletic Training Education Program
Meet an Athletic Trainer for an NFL Team

T. Pepper Burruss is the Director of Sports Medicine Administration and Athletic Trainer/Physical Therapist for the Green Bay Packers. The following is an excerpt from Burruss's full profile, which is available on the BOC blog.

Describe your setting:

Our athletic training facility was recently renovated, and we have only been in it since July. It includes an expanded treatment area, functional rehabilitation area, recovery room, examination rooms, GE iDXA body scan room, digital X-ray room, 4 Athletic Trainer offices, conference room, hydrotherapy room with 2 walk-in hot tubs and a walk-in 4 x 16 cold tub, and a SwimEx rehabilitation pool. In 2013, we were fortunate to have an addition to our building that houses a 10,000-square-foot weight room and an adjacent regulation width indoor 35-yard in-filled field.

How long have you worked in this setting?

This is my 39th season in the NFL. I spent the last 23 seasons with the Green Bay Packers and the first 16 with the New York Jets. I trace my career path to the choice to move from New York state to attend Purdue University under the legendary NATA Hall of Famer, William “Pinky” Newell.

As I was leaving high school in 1972, a chance encounter made me aware of the many Purdue graduates with influential athletic training jobs all across the country. Several of those were in the NFL, which I had my sights set on at a very early age. I decided I needed to be mentored by the best; after all, Pinky was known to have the most high profile job opportunities come across his desk.

It was 800 miles from my New York state hometown to Purdue University. Pinky wrote to me that it was an awful long way for an out-of-state student, and he couldn’t guarantee me a spot in the athletic training facility. I wrote back that I was coming. Years later Pinky confided that my decision to make the trek showed I was determined and willing to put my money where my mouth was.

After Purdue, I chose to attend Northwestern University Medical School to receive my second bachelor’s degree in physical therapy. Then, eight weeks prior to my graduation from Northwestern, I received a call from Bob Reese, the new Head AT of the New York Jets and 1970 Purdue alumni. He asked if I wanted to be the Assistant AT of the Jets. Keep in mind, this is my home state and “my” team growing up. Bob had made a call to Pinky seeking a recommendation, and as they say, “the rest is history.”

I spent 16 seasons with the New York Jets as an Assistant AT. In 1991, Jets Director of Player Personnel Ron Wolf became the general manager of the Green Bay Packers. He called me in early 1992 and asked if I would be interested in becoming the Head AT of the Green Bay Packers after the late Dominic Gentile retired. I wasn’t quick to jump at the offer, as the...
Packers had been through a rough stretch of 25 years of mediocrity. Several months later, I decided this was the right decision for my family. I joined the Green Bay Packers January 1, 1993.

Describe your typical day:
My typical day is the same as most any full-time AT working the “daily grind.” We come in when it’s dark, and we leave when it’s dark. There is not a typical day as each has its varied challenges depending the time of year, intensity of the week and a never-ending administrative load. I firmly believe all ATs feel an unceasing commitment to try to get the job done every day. Over the years, I’ve learned that it is never done. We could work 24/7, and we’d never get everything done because healthcare is never done. Sadly, athletic training is not a 9-to-5 job. It’s a serious commitment. Those who passionately embrace it succeed.

What do you like about your position?
Game day is undoubtedly the “glitz and glimmer” of the NFL. Game days are special. They’re electric. The more important the game, the bigger the “high” is of a win – or the lower the “low” of a loss.

For anyone who has ever been in a fraternal group – like with the military, police, firefighters or various teams – there is nothing compared to the relationships you build in the locker room. There is not a player who retires from the game who says they miss lifting weights, being sore and getting beat up. They always say, “I’m going to miss the locker room.” You can’t help but appreciate the people and relationships. I love being relevant and included as a part of the locker room.

What do you dislike about your position?
I’ve said this a thousand times; my least favorite part of the job is the grind of the hours. With the typical hours an Athletic Trainer works, it takes a concerted effort to maintain some normalcy to family/home and leisure life.

I would say another thing that I find challenging is the vast corporate world of the NFL. The players have multimillion dollar salaries. I struggle with the politics of dealing with all that comes from an entourage of agents, medical consultants and caregivers who advise and direct the players beyond our concerted efforts. Many of these folks have nothing more than a business relationship with the player, yet, in season, we spend more waking hours with them than we do our own families. The pressure on the players gives rise to a challenge of balancing the many outside influences their personal medical advisors bring to the table in relation to the care rendered in our facility.

What advice do you have about your practice setting for a young AT looking at this setting?
Choose the best school that fits your circumstances. Build an impressive résumé and network with people in your chosen field. I started my career by choosing a school that featured a pioneer in the athletic training field.

I tried to never turn down an opportunity to build my résumé through volunteering, taking an additional class or seeking insightful experiences. Students and young ATs need to understand there is mega competition for the glitzy jobs. There are many bright, highly educated students, but so many of the résumés look exactly the same. I think a goal for a young AT should be to make their résumé likely to move from the big pile to the small pile. It’s by having loads of experiences in and out of your desired field/profession that makes your résumé pop.

Certainly you can’t understate the need to network. There is no better place to network than your local, state, district and national NATA meetings. Realize the classmate or AT intern you sat next to in a lecture hall may one day be in a position to recommend, or even hire you, for a job. You cannot afford to be short-sighted about meeting other students, competitors and show exhibitors. Take the time to put a name and handshake with a face.

Don’t set your sights on attaining “average.” That just means you are better than some folks, but a batch of folks are better than you. Lastly, don’t set you goals too low; you are liable to reach them!