# Q&A

**Chad Starkey, PhD, ATC, has been selected chair of the National Athletic Trainers' Association Education Council (EC), a new group charged with evaluating the education parameters in athletic training. Starkey recently shared his objectives for the Council.**

**Q: Please give us a brief summary of your career.**

A: I received my undergraduate degree from West Virginia University and my master's and doctorate degrees from Ohio University, where I gained experience in both the high school and collegiate settings. I serve as a consultant to the National Basketball Trainers' Association and have served on the NATA Board of Certification.

**Q: What are your goals as Education Council Chair?**

A: The Education Council's goals have already been well spelled out in the 18 recommendations made by the Education Task Force and subsequently adopted by the NATA Board of Directors. Most of these recommendations have implementation dates I expect the Education Council to meet. However, much of the success in meeting these goals will be contingent upon the cooperation and input of other agencies such as the NATABOC, the NATA Research & Education Foundation, JRC-AT, and most importantly, the membership.

**Q: How will you achieve these goals?**

A: While I have some knowledge in each of the areas we need to approach, several individuals are experts on the specific topics. I see my role as the chair to facilitate these experts in developing the content and methods while assuring we adhere to the NATA's expectations.

**Q: What is the council's priority as you see it?**

A: To have all of our educational arms working toward a common goal in a unified manner.

**Q: What is the council's long-term goal?**

A: The quality of the education certified athletic trainers receive

*Continued on page 50*

Advertisement

## Chad Starkey Q&A

*Continued from page 48*

—regardless of whether it is entry-level, graduate or continuing education —must be delivered at a level where its quality and content are unchallenged. Furthermore, we must strive to align ourselves with the basic educational model embraced by other allied health care professions. I feel the PEW Health Commission's recommended competencies for healthcare practitioners for 2005 should be used as a benchmark for evaluating our progress.

**Q: How will the Education Council affect the general membership?**

**A:** It would be naive for me to think the EC will have an immediate, positive impact on each and every practicing certified athletic trainer. Indeed, at times some of the recommendations the EC will be implementing may cause programs to operate differently than they have in the past. Although we will make every attempt to minimize inconvenience on practicing certified athletic trainers, we recognize this concern exists. Through communication with the entire membership we should be able to make this transition as painless as possible. The ultimate outcome, however, is the prospect of a brighter future for all certified athletic trainers. It is not unreasonable to think that if we increase the respect, perspective and visibility of our educational process, the need and benefits of employing a full-time certified athletic trainer will be apparent to all of our potential employers. Ideally this would also entail improved working conditions and salaries.

**Q: How can the general membership help the Council?**

**A:** First and foremost, I urge people to become actively involved in supporting the NATA's goals of education reform. However, I do not expect the membership to blindly follow this lead. Communication between the Education Council and the membership is essential. Members may e-mail their comments to: nataec@nata.org or mail them to:

**Chad Starkey, PhD, ATC**
**NATA Education Council Chair**
**304 Dockser Hall**
**Northeastern University**
**Boston, MA 02115**

**Q: What is the most significant trend in the profession of athletic training, and how will the Education Council address it?**

**A:** Certainly one of the hottest issues in healthcare is the call for multi-skilled health care professionals. Certified athletic trainers are already multi-skilled; we just need to impress this upon others. Employment issues such as work place restrictions, third-party reimbursement issues and expanded work settings should benefit from our education reform. ❑

Advertisement