NEWS NOTE

Entry-level Education Committee Tackles Initial Tasks

By Larry J. Leverenz, PhD, ATC
Special Contributor

As the face of athletic training education changes over the next several years, the Entry-level Education Committee will serve as a facilitator of such change, helping to ensure clear communication between the parties involved in the educational transitions in athletic training.

In essence, the committee will serve as a liaison between CAAHEP/JRC-AT – the accreditation provider – and the NATA Education Council – the accreditation consumer.

While accreditation procedures are just beginning at many schools, the committee has focused its attention on other issues.

First, the committee has defined the term "entry-level athletic trainer," submitting the definition to the Education Council Executive Committee for review.

Secondly, the committee is developing technical standards for athletic training. These standards will provide a listing of essential tasks for a person to perform as a certified athletic trainer. The standards will offer guidelines for schools in accepting students in compliance with ADA requirements.

The future, meanwhile, promises much progress. Most prominently, the committee wants to assist schools in the merger of the internship and curriculum routes to certification.

Additionally, the committee will encourage schools to create post-baccalaureate entry-level programs, per the Education Task Force's recommendation.

Since CAAHEP accreditation allows for creative approaches to athletic training education, the committee will help schools develop programs that fit the institution's needs as well as the needs of the profession.

The Entry-level Education Committee is prepared to address issues that arise during this time of change.

The committee encourages input from the membership, in the form of questions, suggestions or other comments.

Information also is available on the Education Council website at <www.cewl.com>.

Committee members' institutions, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses (when applicable) are listed at the end of this article.

For a listing of geographical addresses of committee members, please consult the Leadership Directory listed on the NATA website at <www.nata.org>.

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