



**Young Professionals' Committee
National Distinction Award**

Award Overview & Information

The National Distinction Award is the Young Professionals' Committee highest honor. This award is a unique and prestigious award for the young professional. The YPC wishes to recognize a young professional athletic trainer who has made a definitive impact on the athletic training profession and association at the various levels of organization (national, district, state). This is a meritorious award that reaches the depth and breadth of the nominee's character, clinical skills/ knowledge/ abilities, and selfless service:

- The nominee embodies and contributes to the ideas, goals, and mission of NATA and the YPC
- The nominee has demonstrated the highest level of service, professionalism, and competence in their place of work
- The nominee maintains the highest level of honor, respect, and integrity in their clinical setting and to the community
- The nominee has demonstrated initiative, leadership, and ability to inspire other professionals where the profession has directly benefited
- Nominee demonstrates extracurricular activities, life balance, and time management skills

The selection committee encourages the sponsor to review the award and its criterion before submitting the nominee as an applicant. The sponsor will initiate, collect, and be responsible for the gathering and submission of materials. We encourage recommenders write a concise and descriptive narrative of the nominee as he or she relates to the overview. Letters of recommendations are not limited to one page. We also encourage you to collaborate with the other recommenders in a "team" approach to ensure all perspectives and information are included.

Eligibility

- Must be member of the NATA and in good standing
- Must be a certified member or certified student member
- Must be considered "young professional" at time of nomination
 - o Newly certified to age 35
- An athletic trainer may not be awarded twice
- If more than one sponsor nominates the same person, the first sponsor to nominate will be taken
- Sponsor may nominate only one athletic trainer

- Nominee must have a minimum of three years experience and at least three years membership in NATA

Application Requirements

- Completed award application
- Three letters of recommendation
 - o One from nominating sponsor
 - Sponsor must be NATA member
 - o One from a colleague
 - Must be NATA member
 - o One from an individual in their place of work
 - May or may not be NATA member

Deadlines/Procedure

- Sponsoring athletic trainer must nominate candidate by Jan. 4.
- Application and letters of recommendation must be submitted by Feb. 1.
- Award recipient will be notified by the committee chair by March 1.

Selection

Winners will be selected by the NATA Young Professionals' Committee. Athletic trainers submitting nominations will be notified when their applications are received. The sponsor will be contacted by a member of the Young Professionals' Committee once application has been completed and fulfilled.