



Dear State Leader,

I am writing to thank you for your support of the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) first student leadership conference – iLead. Because of you, and your colleagues at your state association, this event was a huge success. We had student delegates representing 43 states, with more than 150 in attendance.

The feedback we have received has been extremely positive. In fact, the event was such a success that we plan to ask the Continuing Education Committee (CEC) and the Board of Directors (BOD) for their blessing to hold iLead again in conjunction with the 2011 Athletic Training Educators' Conference (ATEC). Should we be allowed to move forward, the structure of the event would be the same as iLead 2009.

We recognize funding is limited, but once again we want to offer states the first option of selecting and sending up to three delegates. Keep in mind state participation is optional, but for those that are able to send representatives, we will allow your students to register before we open general registration to the full student membership. *If your state is unable to participate, please don't feel pressured to do so.* We filled all of our slots in 2009 and we are confident we will do so again in 2011.

Updated information regarding iLead 2011 will be posted regularly on the State Leadership Forum Web site ([www.nata.org/members1/stateleadership/index.cfm](http://www.nata.org/members1/stateleadership/index.cfm)). Since financial support for attendees is a hot topic, I encourage you to post your 2009 funding models for this event on this site. For example, a few states sent one delegate and fully funded the trip. Others provided partial funding, but sent three representatives. Some states selected delegates, but did not provide financial support. This information could be useful for all of us!

One interesting point: when we developed iLead, we looked at it from the event perspective. However, for the students, it was much more than just conference attendance – the entire process was a learning experience. From applying to states for selection as a delegate, to raising funds for the trip, to actual travel to Washington, DC...this was a new experience! And for many, the highlight of the process was being selected by their state leaders to attend! This was true even for those who fully funded their own conference attendance.

On a final note, I wish all of you could have been in DC to see the excitement among your student delegates. The enthusiasm was contagious! They were all professional, courteous and eager to learn. I can assure you, each state was well-represented!

Again, thank you for your support. We will keep you updated on conference preparation. However, if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me ([teresa@nata.org](mailto:teresa@nata.org) or 972.532.8841).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa".

Teresa Foster Welch, CAE  
Associate Executive Director