

2025 Candidate Statement – Candidate for Director



Lisa VanHoose, PT, PhD, MPH, FAPTA
Fellow of the American Academy of Physical Therapy

Question: Describe how the core attributes for elected leadership you possess contribute to the fiduciary and strategic responsibilities of a Director on the APTA Board of Directors?

Response:

Serving as a Director on the APTA Board of Directors requires leadership that is adaptive, courageous, futuristic, inclusive, integrous, and strategic. These attributes are not abstract ideals but essential tools for fiduciary responsibility and guiding long-term strategy. I am grateful for your consideration of me as an elected partner in advancing our mission to strengthen our professional community and transform society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience.

Adaptability defines my leadership at the University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM), where I serve as Founding Director of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Louisiana carries some of the highest burdens of chronic disease and the lowest health rankings in the nation. Building a program for the rural Ark-La-Miss area demands flexibility in vision and execution. The curriculum integrates cultural and rural health, health systems science, and direct community engagement, preparing graduates to serve underserved populations and close the gap in rehabilitation deserts. Through the Ujima Institute, which I founded, I also lead programs that adapt to community-identified needs in cancer survivorship, chronic illness, and health equity. This same adaptability will sustain fiduciary oversight on the APTA Board, ensuring financial and strategic decisions reflect members' evolving needs.

Courage shapes my response to inequities. I speak out on systemic disparities in health and rehabilitation. That courage drives the creation of the ULM program despite resource challenges and frames national conversations about why physical therapists are the preferred providers for addressing movement disparities. On the Board, courage will enable me to advocate for bold solutions aligned with our priorities: value-based care, site-neutral payment reform, and Medicaid protection.

Foresight directs my scholarship and leadership. My work in oncology rehabilitation, disparities in survivorship outcomes, and social determinants of health anticipates the profession's role in addressing population health. At ULM, I embed rural health training, telehealth, and intraprofessional and interprofessional collaboration into student preparation. These innovations align with our commitment to clinical advancement, ensuring fiduciary resources prepare the profession for future models of care delivery.

Inclusivity anchors my work. At ULM, I build pathways for students from rural and first-generation backgrounds to enter the profession and return to serve their communities. Through Ujima, I cultivate collective care and empowerment for those most affected by chronic illness. My scholarship amplifies diverse voices by documenting disparities and barriers to whole-person care. On the Board, inclusivity will guarantee that programs and resources reflect the full spectrum of member and community perspectives.

Integrity guides me in every role. As a past President of APTA Oncology, principal investigator of funded projects, and private practice owner, I uphold transparency, accountability, and ethical stewardship. Careful resource management ensures that every dollar advances both science and the public good. On the Board,

integrity will strengthen fiduciary trust, ensuring decisions serve members, patients, and the profession's sustainability.

Strategy weaves these attributes together. Building the ULM program requires aligning institutional resources, community needs, and workforce gaps into a sustainable model. Ujima's programs balance limited resources with large impact through partnerships and community-driven programming. My scholarship strategically targets inequities where evidence can inform systemic change, from cancer rehabilitation to rural workforce distribution. On the Board, I will apply this systems perspective to align fiduciary oversight with transformative strategies, including Medicaid expansion, PT inclusion in loan repayment programs, and addressing reimbursement disparities.

I believe in the socioecological model: nothing occurs in isolation. At the individual level, ULM graduates will serve rural and underserved communities. At the community level, Ujima programs advance freedom by responding to identified needs. At the societal level, my scholarship informs policy and practice by highlighting disparities and advancing whole-person rehabilitation. These experiences demonstrate how my leadership embodies the attributes required of an APTA Board Director and how they support fiduciary responsibility and strategic vision.

If elected, I will bring adaptability to respond to evolving needs, courage to champion reforms, foresight to prepare for innovation, inclusivity to ensure belonging, integrity to uphold trust, and strategy to align fiduciary stewardship with long-term goals. Our professional goals can be achieved while remaining in alignment with today's sociopolitical climate. Freedom is essential for our profession to grow in response to community needs. Freedom is also vital for individuals to gain access to our profession, pursue opportunity, and deliver care where it is most needed. In this way, the Board's vision for the profession complements national priorities while ensuring that patients and practitioners alike benefit from a system rooted in both responsibility and liberty.