

# 2025 Candidate Statement – Candidate for Nominating Committee



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**Question:** How would you utilize the core attributes for elected leadership to develop a slate of candidates now and in the future?

## **Response:**

It is an honor to once again be slated for a position on the APTA Nominating Committee. My previous candidacy reinforced my dedication to APTA's mission of "building a community that advances the profession of physical therapy to improve the health of society" and to developing our association's future leaders. The Nominating Committee has identified six core attributes for elected leadership - Adaptive, Courageous, Futuristic, Inclusive, Integrity, and Strategic Thinker - as characteristics pivotal to moving APTA forward to meet future needs. I believe in these attributes and will utilize each to cultivate a forward-looking slate of candidates.

Now more than ever, our association faces emerging challenges in its leadership pipeline: imbalance in representation from practice settings, gaps across generations and perspectives, and questions of technology readiness among leaders. Addressing these issues requires a forward-thinking, strategic approach. As an educator and mentor, I am prepared to apply these core attributes to help build a broadly representative, dynamic leadership slate aligned with APTA's strategic plan and vision.

Being Adaptive means anticipating change and responding with effective strategies. During my service as Vice President of the Faculty Senate, I recognized missing voices in leadership and organized listening sessions and mentorship programs, resulting in a 15% increase in participation from historically overlooked groups. As Treasurer of APTA Arizona, I worked with colleagues to mentor members into committee roles, demonstrating how outreach broadens leadership pathways. Equally important is Courage in delivering results amid uncertainty, including advocating for non-traditional nominees and mentoring them to see themselves as future leaders.

To shape the leaders of tomorrow, I will take a Futuristic and Strategic approach. As Communications Chair of the Academy of Physical Therapy Research, I championed technology-driven tactics to engage emerging leaders, using social media and virtual forums to connect students and early-career professionals. Likewise, my collaboration with the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy to design PT Compact modules anticipated licensure portability needs and prepared future leaders to navigate a changing regulatory environment. These initiatives show how foresight and strategy position leaders to guide the profession through new challenges. This means not only meeting today's needs but also cultivating leaders ready to advance APTA's priorities, such as broadening representation among association leaders. As a champion of innovation, I bring this mindset to build a slate of candidates who uphold APTA's mission while driving innovation.

I strive to be an Inclusive leader who fosters belonging by valuing each person's contributions. As faculty advisor to an International Student Association, I collaborated across disciplines to create a 3-credit course that helped international students integrate academically and culturally. This experience emphasizes how inclusive leadership builds community and strengthens pipelines for success. I have also mentored individuals

from historically overlooked groups, guiding many to pursue leadership opportunities within APTA academies and components.

Equally vital is Integrity. In roles that require discretion, such as chairing faculty search committees and serving as an APTA awards reviewer, I learned the importance of confidentiality and fairness. As a Nominating Committee member, I would approach candidate conversations with the highest ethical standards, balancing confidentiality with accountability to build trust in the process and encourage more members to step forward.

My leadership path, through service in APTA components, affinity groups, and international forums, has shown me that leaders emerge from varied paths, not all typical. I have mentored colleagues and students across clinical, academic, and global settings, developing a cross-sector leadership pipeline. In teaching, I integrated social media-based dialogues to connect DPT students with global PT conversations at CSM and WCPT, an innovation later presented internationally. I also led pro-bono student clinics that paired experiential learning with community service, offering students early leadership opportunities. Beyond academia, my work with international scholar exchanges and professional networks has helped identify and elevate non-traditional leaders whose perspectives enrich the profession. These experiences give me a broad view of leadership that I will leverage to identify candidates with varied backgrounds and fresh ideas, ensuring our slate remains vibrant and representative of APTA's future.

In closing, I am inspired and humbled by the opportunity to serve. I am confident that my experience and passion will contribute to the Nominating Committee developing a strong slate of candidates for APTA national leadership. I will bring a spirit of collaboration and service to the Nominating Committee, working to ensure our candidates are adaptive, inclusive, and prepared for the future. It would be my privilege to serve on the APTA Nominating Committee, ready to develop a slate of candidates that will enhance APTA's mission.