



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NCATA ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS AT ANNUAL MEETING**

Winston Salem, N.C - The North Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association held its annual meeting at Novant Health, Winston Salem NC. The highlight of the online event was the announcement of the annual awards presented by the association.

#### **Athletic Trainer Service and Presidential Awards**

**The Athletic Trainer Service Award** was presented to **Dr. Lindsey Schroeder, Ed.D, LAT, ATC Associate Professor and Program Coordinator of UNCW in Wilmington, NC.** Her dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the athletic training profession make her an exemplary candidate for this prestigious recognition.

**The Athletic Trainer Service Award** was presented to **John Marshall. LAT, ATC, Associate Head Athletic Trainer, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.** His dedication to both clinical excellence and mentorship ensures that the department maintains a high standard of care and continues to evolve.

**The Athletic Trainer Service Award** was presented to **Sarah Bell. LAT, ATC, Athletic Trainer of C.E. Jordan High School in Durham, NC.** Her commitment extends beyond the boundaries of her expertise; when faced with challenges outside her domain, she proactively seeks out the right resources to ensure comprehensive support for the students.

**The Presidential Award** was presented to **Dr. Bryan Bunn MD, CAQSM of ECU Health Chowan Hospital** who has consistently advocated for the advancement and recognition of athletic trainers, demonstrating a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the field.

**The Presidential Award** was presented to **Lindsey Braddock MS, LAT, ATC of Murphy Waiver Orthopedic Specialists, Page High School in Greensboro, NC** who has been an inaugural member of the NCATA Critical Care Collective where she has truly been the heart of the Collective, aiding for so many who were and are in need.

**The Presidential Award** was presented to **Michael Essa DPT, MA, ATC of Duke Health** for his dedication to creating a supportive and effective healthcare environment has had a profound impact on the schools he partners with and the professionals he works alongside.



### **NCATA Scholarships:**

**The Presidential Scholarship for Leadership** was presented to **Kristin Hogan**, at **University of North Carolina Charlotte**.

**The Pioneer Scholarship of Service** was presented to **Rachel Schultz**, at **University of North Carolina Charlotte**.

**The Hall of Fame Scholarship for Academic Excellence** was presented to **Gabrielle Villa**, at **Western Carolina University**.

### **Lifesaver Recognition:**

**2025 Lifesaver Recognition Award** was presented to **Courtney Phelps, John A. Holmes High School**. During the first play of the game, a junior varsity football player received a significant hit. He was assisted off the field, but his condition quickly declined. The athlete was experiencing severe abdominal pain and was unable to find relief. Due to the pain, Courtney was unable to palpate his abdomen and began monitoring his vital signs, suspecting internal bleeding. Within minutes of the impact, his heart rate increased, his blood pressure dropped, his skin became pale, and he expressed feeling cold. Courtney activated the Emergency system, and the athlete was transported to the local hospital. A CT scan confirmed a Grade 5 spleen rupture and a Grade 4 kidney rupture. He was then airlifted to the trauma center in Greenville and was released from the ICU four days later. The athlete has since been cleared to return to non-contact sports and is expected to return to football in the fall.

**2025 Lifesaver Recognition Award** was presented to **Eric Hall, Cary High School**. In the spring of 2023, Cary High School's athletic trainer, Eric Hall accurately identified a baseball player suffering from an anaphylactic reaction after mistakenly ingesting peanuts before a baseball game. The athlete was successfully treated with the school's emergency EpiPen when swelling of this airway was noted.

If you have any questions regarding this news release, please contact Taryn Strickland, Public Relations Committee Chair, at [ncatapr@ncata.net](mailto:ncatapr@ncata.net) 603-662-7585