

The education of Athletic Trainers has always been a priority for the State leadership since the inception of Southwest Athletic Trainers' Association (SWATA) and Texas State Athletic Trainers' Association (TSATA). Our founders established learning objectives for the education of athletic training students to promote and enhance the development of the Texas licensure program.

In 2017, Texas State Athletic Trainers' Association (TSATA) Board of Regional Directors and the Executive Director, Michael "Spanky" Stephens asked Mr. Dennis Hart and Mr. Randell "Randy" Matthews to co-chair this initiative to address "the language of the Texas Athletic Trainers' Practice Act, and review the educational requirements of the practice act." Mr. Hart and Mr. Matthews invited several athletic trainers from different regions across the State of Texas to join this endeavor. The members of the educational task force were Randy Matthews (co-chair), Bubba Wilson, Sandy Miller, Brian Farr, Dr. Shandra Esparza, Dr. Steve Simpson, Dr. Stephanie Jevas, and Sherry Ann Miller. After two years of discussions and with suggestions from the Practice Act Task Force, the TSATA Board of Regional Directors and Mr. Stephens created a new standing committee to address apprenticeship education. TSATA leadership ask Mr. Billy Ray Laxton to chair this newly formed committee.

On January 7, 2018 at Georgetown Eastview High School, a town hall meeting was held with prospective universities and colleges stakeholders to discuss the different aspects of apprenticeship education.

The first committee meeting was in December 2018. Initial committee members were Mr. Billy Ray Laxton (chair), Mr. Ed Sunderland, Dr. Lorna Strong, Ms. Tori Tenney, Mr. Daryl Hausam, Mr. Ernie Feisner, and Ms. Sherry Ann Miller. During this initial meeting, we decided to develop learning objectives that the committee deem as Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs). The committee felt that these learning objectives are the minimal requirements that every athletic training student should possess upon graduation from a four-year university program. After several meetings, the committee decide to purse what the committee refers to as the "Apprenticeship Endorsement Program." After much discussion by TSATA Board of Regional Directors and the TSATA Executive Director, the "Apprenticeship Endorsement Program" was approved, and is being actively promoted and encouraged by the TSATA and the committee members.

In June of 2019, the committee members (Billy Ray Laxton, Ed Sunderland, Daryl Hausam, Dr. Lorna Strong, Bubba Wilson, and Sherry Ann Miller) and the Executive Director of TSATA met with designers from ATrack. This meeting established the committee's direction to facilitate and incorporate this software into the Apprenticeship Endorsement Program. This electronic database is to "be the repository" for all of the endorsement programs documents and housing of the Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs) that the committee developed for universities/colleges. Ultimately the Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers' test writers will use when developing "test questions" for the licensure examination.

July 2019, during the Texas Forum Mr. Laxton presented the "Apprenticeship Endorsement Program". This was one of the first discussions with constitutes from the state.

During 2020 – 2021 academic year, the committee members were able to continue developing many aspects of the "Apprenticeship Endorsement Program". The Apprenticeship Endorsement Committee, at this time, made a recommendation to the TSATA Board of Regional Directors to establish regional sub-committees to promote the "Apprenticeship Endorsement Program".

April 3, 2022, a webinar was held to explain and promote the “Apprenticeship Endorsement Program” to universities and colleges stakeholders.

Current Committee members: Billy Ray Laxton (co-chair), Ed Sunderland, Dr. Lorna Strong, Dr. Andrea Green, Brian Farr, Bubba Wilson, Sonya Mikeska, Daryl Hausam, and Sherry Ann Miller (co-chair).

Current Regional sub-committee members: Region 1 – Scott Smelser, Region 2 – John Overton, Region 3 – Sarah Baulch, Region 4 – Jeff Smith, Region 5 – Mike Waters, Region 6 – Joseph Eberhardt, Region 7 – Daryl Hausam, Region 8 – Dr. Nydia Cabra, and Region 9 – Mandolyn Peterson.