



## 2026 Candidates

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## Board of Directors

Name:

**Tori Gude**

Employer:

Lexington Medical Center

Education:

Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Science, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
Master of Physical Therapy, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
Doctor of Physical Therapy, Boston University

Related Experience:

Director of Rehabilitation Services-Lexington Medical Center

- Direct responsibility for inpatient PT/OT/ST services
- Strategic and performance improvement planning to ensure our team carries out the mission and vision of our organization
- Fostering an environment of continued learning and promoting the rehab profession so our team can work at the top of their license

Midland's Tech PTA Advisory Council

- Meet yearly to enhance the student experience and improve clinical training in preparation for graduation and joining the workforce; connects college to the local clinical community

Carolina Clinical Education Consortium-Clinical Member

- Collaboration between therapy educators and clinical sites within North Carolina and South Carolina. There is a focus on enhancing clinical training and promoting best practices

Guest lecturer for South University on lymphedema therapy

Goals and Plans if elected?

If elected my goals are to continue helping to implement the strategic plans developed by the board, listen and engage members for their recommendations on how we can better support them, and continue to look for ways to increase student and member participation.

Why are you qualified for this position?

I have been a physical therapist for almost 25 years, and in leadership for 21 years. I feel I am qualified for this position because I value our profession and want to see us continue to grow and share our unique skill set with our communities. I am a collaborator and enjoy being able to work with our community of therapists and educators to advance the profession.

Video: [Tori Gude](#)

## Delegate

Name:

**Lisa Crowell**

Employer:

Encompass Health

Education:

Masters in Physical Therapy and Bachelor of Arts & Sciences, Ohio University

Related Experience:

In my many years as a physical therapist, I have been able to act as a clinical instructor, a treating therapist and as a leader in multiple organizations. I have experienced different sectors of therapy, including skilled nursing acute care, inpatient rehab, and home health. I have served on the Colorado State Board of physical therapy for two years before moving to the state of South Carolina. I've attended the state and annual conferences throughout my career which I've been so very much inspired. I have been provided the opportunity to work with local schools at the high school, collegiate levels and professional levels. I have volunteered in the community for many healthcare related events and increased awareness for medical and physical therapy screenings. I continue to volunteer in the states animal shelters to assistance support those that cannot speak for themselves.

I have appreciated the honor of participating on the HGTC advisory board for their PTA program.

I currently serve as the CCCE with my professional employer.

In the past 12 years of my career my leadership platform has allowed me to conduct research, Promote evidence based practice, opportunities with public speaking, Work side-by-side with universities, and obtain my certification in process improvement/implementation.

For the past eight years, I have served as the Therapy Operations Director for a national inpatient rehabilitation organization. Prior, to my current employer, I served as an area rehab director overseeing 11 skilled nursing centers and I served as the Area Rehab Director for tri-state area in the home health sector.

Goals and Plans if elected?

My goal would be to inspire our therapists and our profession to ask "why" more often. Many times we form an opinion without asking "why" and this often leads to invalid information. I truly feel that if we ask "why" and learn different perspectives that we can develop more creative sustainable solutions to our current barriers. When we ask "why" we allow ourselves to be inspired to learn more. Inspiration is the key to our future as a profession is the foundation of what keeps us going through all the challenges that we have among us. Inspiration allows us to focus on the positive.

My plan would be to influence others to work at the top of our physical therapy license so our profession can be protected as a professional degree. My plan would be to influence more in person, hands-on skills training that involve networking. My plan would be to increase our community sponsorships to increase visibility of the APTA and its resources.

Why are you qualified for this position?

I am qualified for this position for the following reasons. I have worked in a variety of settings in the past 25 years that gives me a diverse perspective of the profession. I currently and have consistently worked with a diverse team of experienced and newer professionals that allows me to look at things differently, and to challenge ourselves to progress the profession. I have acted as a treating therapist since 2001 and continue to do so today. I am credentialed clinical instructor through the APTA and mentored many students through their professional careers. My leadership responsibilities and connections allow me a platform to help gather feedback quickly and influence at a local and regional level. I have served on the Colorado state board of physical therapy and learn the differences between the professional organization and the state platforms. Most importantly, I am extremely passionate about being a physical therapist and about working with competent, progressive and engaging clinicians to protect the public consumers and ensure that they have a strong outcome from our skilled efforts and prescription.

Video: [Lisa Crowell](#)

Name:

**Jessica Morgan Poston**

Employer:

Bayada Home Health in a joint venture with MUSC

Education:

B.A. in Biological Sciences, Clemson University  
DPT, MUSC

Related Experience:

Current staff physical therapist at Bayada Home Health. Previously rehab lead at Centerwell Home Health. I am currently a Sunday school/Bible study teacher at my church in Johnsonville, South Carolina.

Goals and Plans if elected?

My goal is to learn as much as possible about the governance of APTA and ways that I can assist in advancing our profession.

Why are you qualified for this position?

I am a physical therapist with nearly 16 years of experience in multiple treatment settings. I bring a unique perspective to the discussions regarding issues that face, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. I have experienced from an acute care, acute inpatient rehab, outpatient, and now home health environment.

Video: coming soon!