

Dear D8 Public Relations Committee,

I would like to nominate Gina Biviano for the Excellence in Athletic Training Award. Gina is the epitome of what it means to be a young professional in athletic training. She is a passionate and involved athletic trainer who is deserving of this recognition.

Gina is an athletic trainer at UCSF Sports Medicine working as a physician extender as well as doing outreach at a high school in the bay area. She has the ability to work with both amputees as well as high school student athletes. It is a unique ability that Gina has to be able to bounce back and forth from such unique populations. Her skills provide a distinctive advantage to helping to educate the California public on athletic training. Gina's supervisor is always unreserved in her praise both in the clinic and at the high school. She is a vital part to the success of the high school student athletes as well as her patients in the clinic.

Besides being a clinical athletic trainer, Gina is also a motivating force behind working to get licensure in the state of California. She is currently the co-chair of the CATA Governmental Affairs committee and the creator/chair of the Legislative Action Team. She organizes all aspects of the CATA Hit the Hill as well. The CATA Hit the Hill regularly has approximately 200 attendees and each attendee meets with members of the state leadership. This takes immense planning on Gina's part as she has to match up the attendee with their appropriate legislator based on where they live and she makes sure that all attendees attend more than a few meetings. It is a large organizational task that Gina takes on and she does it extremely well. The NATA leaders that have attended the CATA Hit the Hill have always remarked about how well run the event is and that is because of the direction from Gina.

Gina began her political concern as an athletic training student when she was selected to attend the National Hit the Hill day on a scholarship. Since then Gina has been instrumental in the advancement of our profession in the state of California. With the creation of the Legislative Action Team (LAT), Gina assembled a group of dedicated athletic trainers to reach out to their respective legislators to help create personal relationships between athletic trainers and state leaders. Gina's creation of the LAT led to the recent success of getting our title protection bill through both the California Assembly and Senate with only 2 "no" votes. While our bill did not get signed by the Governor, the success of the LAT is due in large part to the leadership of Gina.

While Gina does not necessarily publish many articles and research, she does an immense amount of research on her own for the betterment of our profession. I have heard of no ATEPs in the country that spend their time learning the in's and out's of the political realm and so Gina has taken it upon herself to learn these things on her own. Gina has spent countless hours learning on her own and gaining experience with politics. This information she then passes onto other athletic trainers to help understand the bill processes as well as key words that might be helpful when talking with state leaders. Her contribution of her political knowledge is a huge contribution to our political fight. Gina is our primary speaker at most Hit the Hill days as she is as close of an expert in athletic politics as there is

Gina Biviano is the definition of what the Excellence in Athletic Training Award stands for. I have gotten to know Gina through our shared involvement of the CATA and I can tell you she is an incredibly warm, genuine and wonderful athletic trainer and person. Her positive personality is contagious to all those that she interacts with. She is someone I look up to for her ability to maintain her professionalism when facing those who do not value our profession and her dedication to our cause. She is always the person I want representing our profession. I am proud to call Gina a friend and a colleague. I encourage you strongly to honor Gina and all her hard work with this prestigious award.

Jamie Adams Med, ATC, CES
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