

ACAPT BOARD BRIEF



Spring 2026

DEAR MEMBERS,

As we close out a productive Board Retreat and continue advancing the work of our strategic plan, we wanted to share a brief update on several important conversations, decisions, and initiatives that will shape ACAPT's work moving forward.

The Board Retreat focused heavily on advocacy, governance, organizational sustainability, member engagement, and the future of physical therapy education. We remain deeply appreciative of the continued partnership, expertise, and volunteer leadership of our members.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ORGANIZATIONAL ALIGNMENT

A major focus of the retreat centered on operationalizing the ACAPT Strategic Plan through the development of organizational Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Board members and staff participated in collaborative workshops focused on defining measurable organizational outcomes, aligning initiatives with strategic priorities, identifying operational benchmarks and accountability measures, and strengthening long-term organizational sustainability.

This work will help guide decision-making, resource allocation, and future reporting efforts across the organization.

PTA COLLABORATIVE EXPLORATION

The Board approved a phased framework to begin exploring collaboration opportunities with PTA stakeholders. The approved approach emphasizes listening and relationship building, exploration of collaborative engagement opportunities, workforce alignment discussions, shared educational priorities, and thoughtful consideration of organizational identity and member value.

Future conversations will include outreach to PTA leadership groups and opportunities for collaborative dialogue with interested stakeholders.

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP UPDATES

The Board continued conversations related to governance, leadership continuity, and long-term succession planning. Discussions focused on exploring potential approaches that could support leadership development, organizational continuity, and institutional knowledge within ACAPT.

The Board also discussed the importance of engaging members in these conversations throughout the coming year as potential succession planning models and governance options are further explored and refined.

ADVOCACY AND FEDERAL POLICY

The Board discussed several rapidly evolving federal policy issues affecting physical therapy education and the broader higher education landscape. Discussion topics included the recently filed RISE student loan limits and professional designations, negotiated rulemaking for the new accountability frameworks, federal accreditation reforms, workforce and patient concerns, and ACAPT's continued presence on Capitol Hill.

The Board reviewed the strong outcomes of ACAPT's recent advocacy efforts and meetings on Capitol Hill, resulting in increased member engagement and legislative outreach.

ACAPT will continue collaborating with coalition partners, members, and advocacy leaders to ensure physical therapy education remains represented in national policy discussions.

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ACCESSIBILITY, STUDENT SUPPORT, AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The Board continued conversations related to accessibility, accommodations, and student support resources within physical therapy education. Following legal consultation, discussions focused on resource-based approaches that may support institutions while minimizing organizational risk. Areas under consideration include resource libraries and educational supports, technical standards examples, Brown Bag Lunch and Learn programming, and institution-focused accessibility work.

The Board also discussed the work of the Social Determinants of Health Task Force and future pathways for member education and scholarly dissemination.

FINANCIAL HEALTH AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Board reviewed the organization's financial position and ongoing efforts to strengthen long-term sustainability. Discussion included positive cash and asset trends, strategic cost management efforts, continued investment in advocacy and operational infrastructure, evolving sponsorship and partnership opportunities, and future technology and data investments.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY AND MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

The Board approved updates to the National Honor Society process intended to streamline participation and reinforce institutional vetting responsibilities. The revised process will maintain the current National Honor Society domains, shift vetting responsibilities to member institutions, remove the centralized student application process, and require students to formally accept nominations through ACAPT.

ELC PLANNING AND FUTURE PROGRAMMING

Planning conversations for the upcoming Educational Leadership Conference programming included a proposed NPTE-focused panel discussion, roundtables for program directors, workforce and student preparedness conversations, and expanded opportunities for member dialogue and collaboration.

The Board remains committed to ensuring that ELC programming continues to support meaningful discussion, innovation, and leadership development across physical therapy education.

LOOKING AHEAD

As ACAPT continues implementing the Strategic Plan, the Board remains focused on supporting DPT programs and learners, advancing advocacy efforts, strengthening governance and leadership continuity, expanding member engagement opportunities, building sustainable organizational infrastructure, and supporting innovation and collaboration across the profession.

Thank you for your continued engagement, leadership, and partnership.

Catch up with ACAPT



community.acapt.org



acapt@acapt.org



www.acapt.org