



May 15, 2022

APTA Emerging Leader Award
Member Engagement Department
3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100
Alexandria, VA 22305

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are pleased to nominate Brianna DeWitt as our 2022 APTA Emerging Leader Award candidate. Since the time Brianna started her DPT education in 2012 she has consistently been involved in association and community activities that enhance and promote the profession.

Brianna was born and raised in Butte, Montana, where she learned to value curiosity, hard work and caring for the community. Her first personal experience with physical therapy began at age 10 after she experienced an injury as a young dancer. Her exposure to physical therapy continued through high school when she was a competitive contemporary/ballet dancer. She attended the University of Montana and chose a pre-PT track in Exercise Science, assisting with anatomy and kinesiology courses. She had her first exposure to pelvic floor PT while completing volunteer hours while applying to PT school. She earned her DPT degree at Eastern Washington University in 2015, mentored under Patricia Nelson in pelvic health, and participated in research using real-time ultrasound to determine optimal cueing studies for the transverse abdominis muscle.

Her clinical practice initially involved treating patients with orthopedic, vestibular, and cardiovascular conditions. She started a pelvic PT program at her first workplace. Brianna currently works in a hospital-based outpatient clinic specializing in pelvic health and oncology. She chose to be a PT because she enjoys teaching people about what their bodies are capable of, and how they can use mindful movement and exercise to feel their best and improve their quality of life.

Brianna's contributions to the association are as follows:

- Serving as APTA Hawaii's Education Committee chair from 2018 until the present. During these years, Bri helped us test offering a conference at a resort instead of a clinic, and helped us transition to virtual events and joint virtual events with other chapters.
- Volunteering as a state liaison for APTA Academy of Pelvic Health since 2020 and hosting local learning/collaboration opportunities for pelvic floor PTs in Hawaii.

- Participating ad hoc on various other APTA Hawaii committees, including the Legislative Committee.

Some examples of Brianna's service to the profession outside of her association activities include:

- [Providing guidance about pelvic floor issues a PT can address during pregnancy and postpartum](#) in a morning news segment on KHON television called, "Ask a Specialist."
- Educating the community via blog and social media (bridpt.blog/@bri.d.pt) highlighting oncology, pelvic floor rehab, and sharing her personal journey with breast cancer.
- Co-hosting the webinar, "Family Building after Cancer," with Breast Cancer Hawaii in February 2022.

In addition to continuing her commitment as an APTA Hawaii leader, Brianna is also poised to begin serving as adjunct faculty with the state's first DPT program at Hawaii Pacific University beginning in the summer of 2022.

The sky is the limit for Brianna and her leadership role is only going to be expanded upon within this component of the APTA in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of this outstanding candidate to become an APTA Emerging Leader Award recipient.

Very Respectfully,



Nicholas Bronowski, PT, DPT
Board-Certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist
President
APTA Hawaii