

**2022 Candidate Statements**  
**Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy**

---

**Candidate for President Position: Ellen Donald**



**Current and past work experience:**

- Assistant Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL (1996–present)
- Director of Transitional DPT Program, Florida Gulf Coast University, FL (2018–present)
- Department Chair, Physical Therapy and Human Performance, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL (1996–2007)
- Assistant Dean of College of Health Professions, and Director of the School of Community Health and Biomedical Sciences, Florida Gulf Coast University, Ft Myers, FL (2001–2003)
- Contract Pediatric Physical Therapist, Fort Myers, FL (2012–present)
- Director of Clinical Education and Instructor, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY (1993–1996)
- Staff Physical therapist, Children’s Hospital of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY (1990–1993)
- Staff Physical Therapist, Language Development Program, Tonawanda, NY (1989–1990)
- Contract Physical Therapist, Long-Term Care facilities and home care, MA, NY (1988–1990)
- Clinical Manager of Rehabilitation, VNA of Greater Salem, Salem, MA (1987–1988)
- Staff Physical Therapist, Beverly Hospital, Beverly, MA (1985–1987)

**Licensure experience:**

- Member, Florida Board of Physical Therapy (January 2017–present)
- Experience as licensed physical therapist in three states during my 33-year career (MA, NY, FL)
- Advised hundreds of students in the licensure process during my 28-year teaching career
- Experienced in Foreign Educated candidates for licensure through FCCPT Quality Review Committee (2014–present) and FCCPT Bridge Program Task Force (2017–present)

**FSBPT experience pertinent to position:**

- Director, FSBPT Board of Directors (2018–present)
- Board Liaison, Exam Committees & Boundaries Violations Committee
- Member and Committee Chair, Item Bank Review Committee (6 years)
- Finance Committee (2015–2018)
- Item Writer for NPTE, Jurisprudence Exams, JAM (multiple years)
- Item Bank Clean Up meeting participant (multiple years)
- Exam Committee Leadership Meetings (3 years)
- Leadership Issues Forum and Annual Meeting participant/speaker/delegate (multiple years)
- NPTE Summit participant 2011

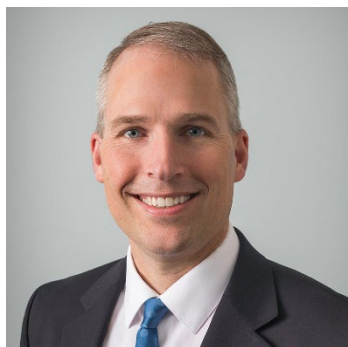
**Other experience pertinent to position (e.g., same position with another organization):**

- Clinical and academic leadership positions have enabled me to lead groups in rich discussion and consensus building, develop and manage budgets, develop strategic plans, lead accreditation/assessment process, supervise/assess personnel, create/evaluate PT and PTA curricula and develop strong communication skills.
  - Doctoral work and professional experience in the area of test construction/assessment has provided me a strong foundation for understanding the complexities of licensure/certification testing and credentialing processes.
  - Long-standing history of service and volunteerism in professional and community organizations
  - Outstanding Service award (FSBPT) 2013
-

**Candidate Statement:**

It would be an honor to serve as the President of the Board of Directors for the FSBPT. My service on the Board has provided me the opportunity to actively contribute to the organization's mission and work with a diverse team of individuals. My varied experiences with the FSBPT over the past 22 years bring me tremendous insight into the numerous functions of the organization. There is never a time where members of the Board of Directors, FSBPT staff, and committee volunteers have demonstrated anything but excellence in their work. This high standard to promote excellence in PT regulation is what keeps me dedicated to the work of the FSBPT and its members. Serving in the Director I position has allowed me to contribute my natural leadership skills and demonstrate the ability to listen to varying viewpoints while respectfully challenging ideas. I possess strengths in leading groups, welcoming rich discussion, and building consensus. I enjoy outward-facing activities and find it easy to build relationships with people and organizations. My style of communication is honest, straightforward and brings fresh ideas. My extensive professional relationships provide me the opportunity to hear the important issues that exist in the physical therapy regulatory community. I understand the importance of including key stakeholders in decision making, and the need to constantly evaluate an organization and its functions to remain nimble and mission-focused. There are many challenges facing regulatory boards and the FSBPT Board of Directors must remain connected to member boards for support and mutual information sharing. Leadership is an act of service to the constituents that an organization serves. I appreciate your consideration for the position of President of the FSBPT Board of Directors.

## **Candidate for President Position: David Relling**



### **Current and past work experience:**

I am currently the associate dean for health sciences and professor in the department of physical therapy at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND. I was program director/chair from 2014 to 2021. I have been a physical therapist since 1991 with experience in acute care, outpatient, cardiac rehabilitation, and long-term care.

### **Licensure experience:**

I served on the North Dakota board of physical therapy for two full terms from 2010 to 2020. During that time, I was able to assist with changes to the practice act, rules, and regulations. We also revised our jurisprudence exam and joined the PT Compact.

### **FSBPT experience pertinent to position:**

I am currently the Vice President of the FSBPT Board of Directors. I have been on the BOD since 2010 as a director or VP. As a member of the BOD, I have participated in LIF, Annual Meeting, NPTE standard setting, NPTE practice analysis, budgeting, strategic planning, bylaws changes, and oversight of King West and HRRI. I have been a liaison to FCCPT and the PT Compact along with the exam committees and multiple jurisdictions.

### **Other experience pertinent to position (e.g., same position with another organization):**

As a former program director and current associate dean, I have some experience in leading meetings and groups of individuals.

---

### **Candidate Statement:**

I am honored to be considered by the nominating committee for the position of President on the BOD of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. FSBPT is an organization of exceptional individuals, dedicated to achieving the mission of protecting the public. I am grateful and humbled to have the opportunity to interact, learn from, and serve the many people associated with the member jurisdictions and their Federation.

My experiences with FSBPT began as an item writer and progressed to an appointment as an exam development committee member and eventual co-chair. The experience with the exam exposed me to valuable information about developing items and exams, standard setting, and exam security. As a member of the Board of Directors, I have used my NPTE knowledge during the practice analysis and adoption of the 2018 exam content outlines along with issues around exam security. While I am from a less populated jurisdiction, my experiences of serving two terms on the North Dakota Board of Physical Therapy, FSBPT BOD director and vice president, liaison to FCCPT, and ex officio member of the Physical Therapy Compact Commission have provided an understanding of the complexity of issues facing member jurisdictions in regulating the profession of physical therapy. I have appreciated the many learning opportunities through jurisdictional board training, strategic planning, the Leadership Issues Forum, and the Annual Meeting to engage board administrators and jurisdictional board members in conversations to understand the variety of issues facing regulatory bodies.

I believe that the characteristics of integrity, hard work, humility, and accountability are integral to an effective leader of FSBPT. I believe my interactions with members, volunteers, staff, and leadership have demonstrated these characteristics during my previous service for FSBPT. I truly appreciate your consideration of me for the position of President on the BOD of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

**Candidate for Vice President Position: Megan Certo****Current and past work experience:**

- Physical Therapist, Acute inpatient rehabilitation with a focus on neurological injury: Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana, Indianapolis, IN (2013– present)
- Physical Therapist, Skilled Nursing Facility/Long-Term Care: Peoplefirst Rehab/Kindred Rehab Services, Greenwood, IN (2006–2013)
- Physical Therapist/Team Leader Mentor, Inpatient acute rehabilitation: Tx:Team, Indianapolis, IN (2003– 2006)
- Physical Therapist/Wound Care Supervisor, Inpatient/outpatient wound management and medical/surgical inpatient therapy: Greater Lafayette Health Services, Inc., Lafayette, IN (2001– 2003)

**Licensure experience:**

- Appointed to the Indiana Physical Therapy Licensing Committee (now PT Board) in December 2005
- Elected Chair of the Indiana Physical Therapy Board in 2013 and have served as Chair from 2013 to present
- Physical Therapy Licensing Committee Probation Supervisor (2005–2015)
- Physical Therapy Licensing Committee/PT Board Liaison to Office of the Attorney General (2014–present)
- Assisted in drafting rules and regulations in Indiana for Continuing competency; direct access; transition from Committee of the Medical Board to independent Physical Therapy Board; PT Practice Act revisions; NPTE attempt limits; and PT Compact/telehealth

**FSBPT experience pertinent to position:**

- Indiana Delegate or Alternate Delegate (2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015–2020)
- Facilitator, Board Chair Forum, FSBPT Annual Meeting (2016–2019)
- Member, NPTE Eligibility Task Force (2013)
- Chair, FSBPT Membership Satisfaction Survey Task Force (2018)
- Chair, ELDD Quality & State Participation Task Force (2021–present)
- Member, FSBPT Finance Committee (2021–present)
- FSBPT Annual Meeting presentations (2019 and 2021)

**Other experience pertinent to position (e.g., same position with another organization):**

- Member, Our Lady of Lourdes School Commission (2017–present); elected Chair (2019–2022)
- Chair, Our Lady of Lourdes School PTO (2017–2022)
- Member, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish-Pastoral Council (2019–2022)
- Treasurer, Cub Scout Pack 8 (2015–present)

---

**Candidate Statement:**

When I was appointed to the PT Board in 2005, I had only 5 years of clinical experience as a therapist. I was unsure of myself but trusted that those whom I worked with and for saw something in me that was right for that position. Since then, I have grown in confidence and leadership ability with each new challenge set before me. Nevertheless, after 16 years on the Board, I admit that I was still a little surprised when I was approached by the Nominating Committee for this role.

While I was honored to be considered and aware that I had plenty of leadership experience, I needed a little push to recognize my own potential and to reach outside my comfort zone. Never one to back down from a challenge, I accepted this nomination wholeheartedly and committed myself to fulfilling the expectations of this position. Outside of my role as a regulator, I am just a regular staff PT, a wife and mom of four, and an unapologetic volunteer. I love FSBPT and all the amazing staff and volunteers! I have rarely felt more inspired than when I am together with my regulatory peers at FSBPT. My hope is that, if elected, I can help this organization and the regulators who make it extraordinary realize and achieve their full potential. I know that together, we can do amazing things! Sometimes, all we need is a little push! And that is a challenge from which I promise to never back down!

## Candidate for Vice President Position: Michele Thorman



### Current and past work experience:

I have had a rich career practicing in a wide spectrum of health care organizations (federal, not for profit faith based, private practice, academia, and my community). My path has been enriched by the satisfaction of caring for patients and leading professionals, consistent with the mission of each organization and personal values.

- University of Wisconsin-La Crosse PT Program
  - Clinical professor emeritus
  - Program director and director of clinical education
  - Served on multiple department, university, and system committees
- Extensive engagement with the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Examining Board, FSBPT, and CAPTE (2002–2019)
- Serve as standardized patient for Health Profession programs emphasizing affective behaviors feedback and provide invited lectures to PT students (2019–present)
- MJ Care, Inc.: Vice President of Skilled Nursing and Assistant Living Facilities (1993–2002)
- St. Joseph's Hospital: Director of Physical Therapy Services (1989–1993)
- Zablocki Veterans Administration Medical Center: progressive clinical and leadership roles (1978–1989)

### Licensure experience:

- Wisconsin Physical Therapy Examining Board
  - Member (2009–2012)
  - Chair (2012–2016)
  - Participated in extensive rules revision process following enactment of significant changes to PT practice act

### FSBPT experience pertinent to position:

- Sexual Misconduct and Boundaries Committee (2022–present)
- Continuing Competence Committee (member: 2015–2017; chair: 2017–2021)
- Board Member and Administrator Training (attended 2010 and 2022)
- International Network of Physiotherapy Regulatory Authorities 2019 Conference (presenter)
- President's Award recipient (2018)
- International think tank on prevention of public risks and harms (attended 2016)
- Wisconsin Delegate to Delegate Assembly (2010, 2013, 2014)
- National Physical Therapy Exam Task Force (2010)

### Other experience pertinent to position (e.g., same position with another organization):

- APTA – Wisconsin
  - Board of Directors (1995–1997)
  - Vice President (1997–2001)
  - Chapter President (2001–2007)
- University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Foundation
  - Recipient, Otto Cordero Lifetime Achievement Award for Service to the Board of Directors (2017)
  - Scholarship Committee Chair (2008–2016)
  - Investment Committee (2007–2009)
  - Executive Committee (2008–2016)
- YMCA LIVESTRONG instructor – promote fitness and wellness for cancer survivors (2019–present)
- Member of local dragon boat team advocating wellness for breast cancer survivors (2017–present)

---

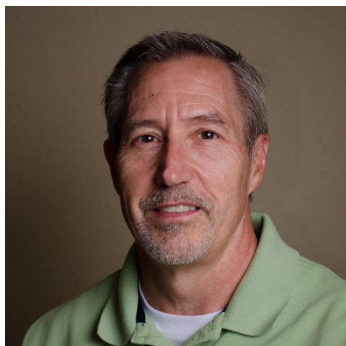
### Candidate Statement:

Life is filled with unanticipated opportunities! I had a “more comfortable” path planned to contribute to FSBPT but the urging of valued mentors to seek candidacy for the office of Vice President challenged my thinking. After careful discernment, I am wholly committed to embarking this new path with your support. Why? Because service is the work of

the soul and professional service has long been the work of my soul. It is how I chose to pay forward the gifts my patients, students, mentors, and peers have freely given me over a blessed career. This is the season in my life to harness my energy in service to the FSBPT.

I retired from my academic position in 2019 but not from our beloved profession. I have the luxury of time, good health, and the passion to serve. The FSBPT is a strong membership-driven organization with a highly effective BOD and outstanding staff. It remains faithful to its mission and is an excellent steward of its human and financial resources. I will strive to contribute my strengths of collaboration, communication, leadership, and followership to help sustain the FSBPT's success. I will seek to apply the lessons learned from service on the WI Physical Therapy Examining Board, Continuing Competence Committee leadership, APTA-WI leadership, involvement in charitable foundations and community service. I will do so with integrity, humility and yes, even humor ... because service is the work of my soul. Thank you for reviewing the information provided in this document. My thanks to the Nominating Committee and the FSBPT membership for your service and for considering my candidacy for the office of Vice President. I wish you continued success in the important work you do.

## Candidate for Nominating Committee Member Position: Robert Friberg



### Current and past work experience:

- Currently and previously served as faculty at:
  - Indiana Wesleyan University
  - Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
  - Hardin Simmons University
  - UTHSC at San Antonio
  - University of Oklahoma
  - Des Moines University
- Private practice in orthopedics

### Licensure experience:

- Licensed as a physical therapist in Georgia and Indiana
- Previously licensed in Texas, Oklahoma, and Iowa
- Licensed as a Licensed Professional Counselor in Georgia (current) and Texas (previous)

### FSBPT experience pertinent to position:

- NPTE item writer since 2007
- Practice Review Tool – General Task Force (2008)
- Practice Review Tool – Ortho Task Force (2010)
- Education Committee (2010–2012; 2013–2015)
- Boundary Violations Task Force (2000–present)
- Item Writer Coordinators Task Force (2017–2019)
- Practice Analysis Oversight Panel 2016-2017 Task Force (2016)
- Exam Development Committee – PT (2013–2015)
- Item Writing Task Force (2011–2012)

### Other experience pertinent to position (e.g., same position with another organization):

Experiences with many people in many different roles leading to knowledge of the positive attributes of a variety of people interested in service to FSBPT.

---

### Candidate Statement:

Thank you for the opportunity to be considered for the Nominating Committee. Since the beginning of my relationship with the FSBPT over 13 years ago, I wholeheartedly support the mission and values of the organization. I have gained much personally and professionally in the many unique opportunities to serve and am committed to giving back whenever possible. Having been associated with FSBPT for an extended period of time informs me in important ways relevant for the Nominating Committee. First, I have a historical perspective which is valuable in recognizing the needs of the organization and the necessary characteristics of those serving in leadership positions. Second, serving on many different committees with many talented people I am aware of those who can potentially add significant value to FSBPT. I believe these relationships will benefit identifying and recruiting excellent candidates for leading this organization in the future. Again, I am honored to be considered. Please contact me if you have additional questions or need more information.



## **Candidate for Nominating Committee Member Position: Flora Muñoz Rivera**



### **Current and past work experience:**

- Owner of Industrial Physical Therapy Services for past 30 years

### **Licensure experience:**

- Puerto Rico Physical Therapy Board
  - Initially appointed in 2015
  - Current President of the Board

### **FSBPT experience pertinent to position:**

- Attended Jurisdiction Board Member & Administrator Training (2015)
  - Attended Leadership Issues Forum (2016, 2018, 2019)
  - Puerto Rico's Delegate to the Delegate Assembly (2018–2022)
  - Puerto Rico's Alternate Delegate to the Delegate Assembly (2016, 2017)
- 

### **Candidate Statement:**

I do not have experience working in a nominating committee, but I'm willing to learn the responsibilities of the position. I like to know new persons and learn from their experience.