



Chris Heard

MTATA Hall of Fame

Inducted 2019



Born and raised in Butte, MT, Chris Heard has been a Certified Athletic Trainer since June of 1995 after graduating with his Bachelors of Science in Health and Human Performance - Athletic Training from the University of Montana. Following his undergraduate studies, Chris remained in Missoula and earned his masters degree in Sport and Performance Psychology in 1997 at UM. In March of that same year, Chris returned home to Butte to be the Head Certified Athletic Trainer for Montana Sports Medicine of St. James Healthcare.

Initially, Chris served as the head athletic trainer for Butte Central High School as part of his role with Montana Sports Medicine. In 2007, Chris transitioned from being primarily at Butte Central to Montana Tech. Currently, Chris still serves as the Head Athletic Trainer for Montana Sports Medicine and the manager of "Therapy, Wound, and Sports Medicine Services at St. James Healthcare." Under Chris's direction, Montana Sports Medicine currently provides outreach licensed athletic training services to Butte High, Butte Central, Anaconda High School, Twin Bridges High School, Montana Tech and the University of Montana-Western.

Throughout his athletic training career, Chris has had the pleasure of working with some of the greatest athletic trainers, physicians, physical therapists, and other healthcare providers around. These professional relationships have led to great friendships that Chris will always cherish. Additionally, Chris credits Dr. Nick DiGiovine and Holly Ferguson, PT for being friends and mentors that have helped him throughout his career.

In addition to Chris's work with Montana Sports Medicine, he had been a crucial leader for the advancement of the athletic training profession in Montana. Chris played a large role in helping to make athletic training licensure in Montana a reality. In June of 2007, Chris was the clinical appointment to the Montana State Board of Licensure, and served as the chairman of the Board of Licensure for 9 years. Chris has also served on the MTATA Governmental Affairs Committee since 2016. For his work with the MTATA, Chris received the MTATA Distinguished Service Award in 2016. In 2019, Chris was inducted into the MTATA Hall of Fame alongside his great friend, JC Weida, LAT. Chris credits and is thankful for JC's mentorship, advice and

friendship over the years.

Chris has also helped to advance the athletic training profession by sharing his expertise with other athletic trainers and healthcare providers. In 2016, Chris presented on the "Medical Model of Athletic Training" at the NWATA District 10 Annual Meeting and Symposium. He also shared his knowledge of the medical model of athletic training in a webinar he completed with Russ Richardson, LAT in 2018 for the NATA. In addition to presenting numerous times at professional conferences and lecture series, Chris has been a co-chair of 14 "Big Sky Sports Medicine Conferences" at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort and has presented or organized numerous public educational seminars throughout Southwest Montana.

Chris lives in Butte with his wife, Nikki, and their two children, Caleb and Morgyn. In his free time, Chris loves to spend time outdoors with his family camping, floating, fishing, and riding ATV's. He also tries to attend as many Oredigger and Griz games as possible. Chris credits his family for his career accomplishments, stating, "the love and support my family has given me over the years is unbelievable. It is not easy being married to an athletic trainer, and my wife was always understanding about our long hours. My parents, sister, and brothers (and their families) mean the world to me and I cannot thank them enough for their endless support!"