# **Gerard White, MEd, LAT, ATC**

Gerard’s passion for athletic training began during his undergraduate career at the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM), when he attended his first SEATA annual meeting hosted by the Atlanta Falcons in Suwanee, GA. Gerard spent almost 10 years with ULM, advancing his education and cultivating his leadership skills while serving as a graduate assistant athletic trainer and then as an assistant athletic trainer.

After leaving ULM, Gerard served as the head athletic trainer for Delta State University in Cleveland, MS before joining Nicholls State University as their head athletic trainer. During his 30 years tenure at Nicholls, he has led the athletic training department, supported student-athlete safety, and created the athletic training education program. He transitioned from clinical to academic leadership, serving on the faculty as the Program Director and then the Clinical Education Coordinator within Nicholls’ athletic training program. He currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Health Sciences in the Department of Allied Health Sciences, where he mentors students tracking towards careers within athletic training and health professions.

Gerard is a compassionate, kind, and collaborative professional who recognizes the demands of district service. He has a breadth of experience in leadership, both at the state level in Louisiana and at the district level within SEATA and has extensive knowledge of association governance. He has served as an engaged member of the executive boards for both LATA and SEATA (past president, treasurer) and offers valuable experience in leadership, communication, and conference planning – essential skills for a successful SEATA Vice President. SEATA recognized Gerard for his dedicated service and contributions by inducting him into the SEATA Hall of Fame in 2020. Gerard serves both the district and state associations with the aim of improving the member experience and working to support and advocate for athletic trainers. He has had extensive experience supporting SEATA educational events both current (Education Experience and AT Expo) and past (athletic training student symposium, clinical symposium and members’ meeting, the inaugural educators’ conference). As the current Vice President and Chair of the SEATA Symposium Oversight Committee, Gerard appreciates the expectations required to plan and facilitate a successful educational experience and uses his extensive expertise to support the programming and development of the annual symposium.

***Message to the Membership:***

I want to thank the membership for your support in electing me the Vice President in the recent special election. It would be my honor to continue serving in this role as SEATA embraces a new Strategic Plan.  I have worked closely with our current SEATA President, Pattie Tripp, on the development of our new Strategic Plan and have eagerly begun the process of implementing our shared vision for SEATA.  I am a dedicated member of your SEATA Leadership team and would appreciate your support for my re-election as SEATA Vice President.  I am dedicated to helping the SEATA Leadership Team to continue with this implementation and stive to improve SEATA’s impact on you, the membership.

I continue to believe that you, our members, are the heartbeat of our organization. The work, energy, and dedication of our SEATA Committees can provide a powerful voice to advocate for our profession. SEATA has a responsibility and duty to facilitate and promote the work and efforts of our committees and the new Strategic Plan reflects this philosophy. Engaging with and amplifying the voices of our committee members allows you as a member to participate in the shared governance of our association. The communication and collaboration of our committees will only make our profession stronger, and I believe SEATA plays a vital role in this effort.  I am confident that our new Strategic Plan offers a clear direction for where our association is headed.  With excitement to continue to serve as your Vice President, I look forward to seeing how these changes improve SEATA's impact on your membership experience. ***We are a stronger organization when we work together!***