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President's Message



Graham Melstrand

President, Coalition for the Registration of Exercise Professionals (CREP)

Happy New Year.

At the Coalition for the Registration of Exercise Professionals (CREP), the transition from one year to the next provides an opportunity to reflect on what was accomplished, lessons learned, and opportunities uncovered in the previous year that we believe will help advance the work of the CREP to secure recognition of registered exercise professionals for their distinct roles in medical, health, fitness and sports performance fields.

Despite the hardships endured by exercise professionals and the facilities,

organizations and institutions that employ them, there are some very positive signs for the profession as we begin 2022.

- The 175,000+ registered exercise professionals on the United States Registry of Exercise Professionals is rapidly approaching our pre-pandemic registration numbers after a sharp drop during the peak of the pandemic
- Employers are looking to hire qualified professionals at an unprecedented rate in anticipation of individuals returning to physical activity, fitness and sport.
- New relationships were established with public health and health advocacy organizations, government, academia and trade that can be further developed on behalf of the professional

During our December annual meeting, the CREP board updated our strategic plan for the 2022 calendar year and has approved an investment spend to accelerate our efforts. This is to take advantage of the opportunities that were surfaced not only in the past year, but as a result of the sustained effort of CREP and member organizations from the time we were established in 2013.

For 2022, we will be focused on two key areas of opportunity: 1) Enhancing the USREPS registry to improve the functionality and utility for registered exercise professionals and the stakeholders that employ them, refer clients and patients to them or that rely on them for their expertise. 2) Resuming a more forward and prominent posture as a resource and advocate for the exercise profession we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

We believe that there will be a renewed commitment to workforce development that encourages and supports opportunities for educational institutions, credentialing/professional organizations and employers to work together to address access to appropriately qualified exercise professionals, quality programs, safety and inclusion. To help advance this effort, CREP will be seeking additional outreach opportunities for blogs, podcasts, webinars and conference presentations to share our mission and vision for the profession.

Concurrently, CREP is working closely with other like-minded health advocacy organizations that have physical activity, exercise and sport as part of their issue advocacy to lend our expertise on the exercise profession and how to build a

participant/patient centric approach to the provision of programs and services based on mutual respect and recognition.

Although we may still have challenges to face in 2022, CREP is looking forward to its best year yet!

Graham Melstrand

President, Coalition for the Registration of Exercise Professionals (CREP)

Advocacy, Outreach & Engagement

In the fall of 2021, CREP joined the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) initiative titled *Active People, Healthy Nation*, as an organizational supporter. The purpose of this effort by the CDC is to communicate the importance of physical activity with the goal of getting 27 million people more physically active by 2027. As a supporter the CDC asks that we promote *Active People, Healthy Nation* with our members, seek ways to support physical activity within communities, incorporate the logo into our website and materials, and share via social media how we are supporting the initiative. The CDC will provide resources to CREP, which we will share with our members on ways to implement the collective strategies of all organizations involved in this initiative to increase physical activity.

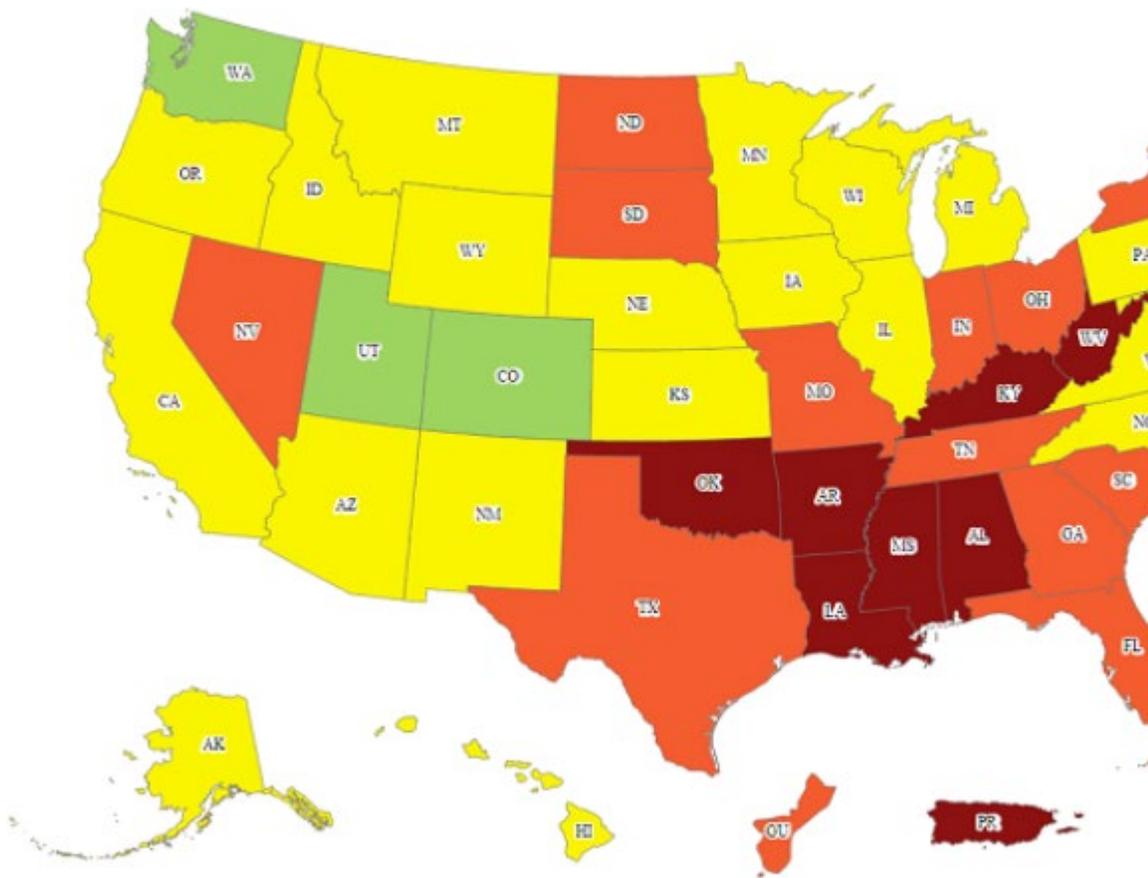
There is a growing interest in Congress to increase access to prescription digital therapeutics (PDTs). These therapeutics are prescription-only software that are regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). They deliver standardized, high-quality, and evidence-based therapeutic interventions to prevent and treat a wide range of disease and disorders, and that treatment list is ever increasing. They can be used in conjunction with smartphones and wearables like the Apple Watch. Many patients currently lack access to PDTs because most health plans do not cover them even though these new therapies can provide high quality diagnostic care and treatment without requiring patients to travel to a healthcare facility. In the coming weeks we expect to see the introduction of legislation that will address this issue by creating a Medicare payment pathway for

PDTs.

Wade Delk,
Government Affairs Director

The Coalition for the Registration of Exercise Professionals (CREP®) advocates for the registered exercise professional on issues that pertain to regulation, access to practice, and scope of work. As part of that effort, CREP® actively monitors state and federal regulatory bills and legislation which may impact the registered exercise professional and their scope of work.

Overall Prevalence of Self-Reported Physical Inactivity Among US A and Territory, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 201



Please go to the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) for entire article and additional maps.

CREP Member Organization Updates

[American Council on Exercise \(ACE\)](#) | [American College of Sports Medicine \(ACSM\)](#) | [National Council on Strength and Fitness \(NCSF\)](#) | [National Strength and Conditioning Association \(NSCA\)](#) | [National Pilates Certification Program \(NPCP\)](#) | [Collegiate Strength & Conditioning Coaches association \(CSCCa\)](#)



The biggest news we have to offer is the relocation of our office from Provo, Utah to Austin Texas. Our official opening was January 3, 2022. We are excited about our new office location and our vision as we move forward.

We are deep in preparations for our National Conference which will take place in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on May 3-4, 2022. We will have a pre-conference symposium sponsored by Gatorade, along with 15-17 speakers covering topics from strength and conditioning programming, ethics, professionalism, health and safety, and mental health, along with several round tables consisting of focus groups to discuss current topics.

We are in the midst of our NCCA reaccreditation process which should be complete by August 2023.

CEO Scott Bennett will be speaking at a task force meeting in Dallas February 22. The meeting is sponsored by the Collegiate Athletic Trainers Society, the Korey Stringer Institute, the Gatorade Sports Science Institute, and the National Athletic Trainers Association. The focus of the task force meeting is Prevention of Exertional Heat Stroke Death in Football Lineman.

ICREPS Updates



The International Confederation of Registers for Exercise Professionals (ICREPs) is an international partnership between registration bodies around the world that register exercise professionals.

While covid-19 has created limitations for global collegiality, ICREPs continues to grow its international presents by adding new members, in the last 18 months the countries of Spain and Iran have joined as associate members, and a number of other countries including Qatar, China, and Tunisia have all applied or are significantly progressing their development.

In 2022 ICREPs also launched a new accreditation program for education providers operating outside of an ICREPs member country to recognize quality providers whose programs align with the global standards of practice for an exercise defined role. This program is designed to ultimately assist with the international portability of graduates from quality programs to registers around the world.

Details of ICREPs, and the new accreditation program can be found at www.icreps.org

Exercise Professionals Registry – “Find Me At” Badge



As a professional who holds a non-expired, eligible certification through a Member Organization, you are eligible for benefits associated with your certification organization's membership in CREP.

CREP maintains the internationally recognized United States Registry of Exercise Professionals® (USREPS).

USREPS makes exercise professionals easily searchable, identifiable, and verifiable. USREPS is changing the industry for:

- Facilities that hire exercise professionals.
- Health providers and advocacy organizations that seek to utilize exercise professionals.
- governments examining potential regulatory standards for exercise pros, and
- Exercise professionals themselves seeking new opportunity to make an impact.
- Consumers who want to verify the credentials of their exercise professionals through a trusted third-party source.

CREP provides the **Find Me At Badge** to YOU to help market your skills as an exercise professional. The badge will visually verify your current exercise credentials listed in USREPS. The badge indicates YOU are a leader who can assist in safely and effectively facilitating client goals of achieving more active, healthy lifestyles through movement, physical activity or exercise for recreation or performance. The badge provides a mechanism your employer and clients can use to easily verify your certification(s) status. Using the badge will make it easier for health clubs and other exercise facilities to recognize, market, and promote YOUR services.

Employee Verification

For Employers, the United States Registry of Exercise Professionals (USREPS®) provides verification of valid credentials for the largest number of exercise professionals in the world.

[Verify Employees Here](#)

With nearly 200,000 certificants, representing five fitness professions, USREPS serves as the sole clearing house for verified NCCA-accredited ISO 17024-compliant certifications for Group Exercise Instructors, Personal Trainers, Pilates Teachers, Strength and Conditioning Professionals and Clinical Exercise Specialists. USREPS offers the most efficient and streamlined method of positively verifying the current professional credentials of prospective and existing staff. Employers may verify a single professional or verify a large group of professionals at one time.



CREP®-USREPS®
4400 College Blvd Suite 220
Overland Park, KS 66211
info@usreps.org
913.222.8658





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