



# 2025 IMPACT REPORT

**CREP**

Coalition for the Registration  
of Exercise Professionals®



### DARRYL CONWAY, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Darryl Conway, Executive Senior Associate Athletic Director / Chief Health & Welfare Officer at the University of Michigan was one of our 2025 Athlete Alive Champions. Darryl was also a panelist on our CREP webinar, Athlete Alive 2025: A Celebration of Champions. Darryl shared how his University has implemented best practices for preventing student-athlete injuries and deaths related to conditioning and training.

**“The University of Michigan is happy to have participated in this important initiative. The health and safety of our student-athletes is paramount and being a participant in Athlete Alive further enhances the efforts to maximally protect the student athletes.”**

- Darryl Conway  
Executive Senior Associate Athletic Director / Chief Health & Welfare Officer  
University of Michigan

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Dear Members, Supporters and Friends,

When there is a transition in the CREP presidency, it offers us an opportunity to reflect and rededicate ourselves to the mission that unites us. It is a time to celebrate the significant progress we have made while setting our sights on new opportunities to embed registered exercise professionals into healthcare. Our work is about more than exercise—it is about transforming lives, elevating health, and ensuring that every person, regardless of background, has access to the benefits of physical activity. Our mission is and will remain—to champion the role of registered exercise professionals in the healthcare continuum and champion for the recognition our collective professionals deserve.

The United States faces an urgent crisis of physical inactivity, which contributes to chronic diseases that account for approximately \$117 billion in annual healthcare costs.<sup>1</sup> Despite overwhelming evidence on the efficacy of exercise and physical activity to prevent and manage chronic diseases, the expertise of qualified exercise professionals remains underutilized in health and wellness solutions. CREP and its member organizations lead the fight for greater access, recognition, and integration of registered exercise professionals (USREPS) within the healthcare system.

CREP is advocating for greater access to highly trained and credentialed exercise professionals. With over 130,000 US Registered Exercise Professionals across the United States, we represent a workforce prepared to deliver scalable, diverse, and evidence-based solutions to meet the needs of patients and clients in the communities we serve. We are committed to ensuring that our professionals are recognized as key stakeholders in improving the health of our communities.

Our focus in 2025 and beyond remains on protecting and advancing the exercise profession through strategic advocacy and policy engagement. We will work to ensure that regulatory frameworks enhance the role of registered exercise professionals in healthcare and public health. We will continue to proactively monitor state and federal legislation and address challenges like taxing fitness services, insurance reimbursement barriers, and evolving occupational regulations. Our efforts extend beyond policy tracking—we actively educate policymakers on the essential role registered exercise professionals play in chronic disease prevention and health promotion.

Looking ahead, CREP remains a staunch advocate for industry growth, shaping policies that foster sustainable career pathways for professionals while expanding equitable access to exercise services in communities nationwide. We are driven by our commitment to elevating the profession, improving public health, and expanding access to qualified exercise professionals. The passion of our members and partners fuels our efforts to ensure exercise is recognized as a critical component of healthcare. Together, we will continue advocating for policies and opportunities that empower exercise professionals to make a lasting impact.

In health,

**Francis Neric, MS, MBA**

Past-President

Coalition for the Registration of Exercise Professionals

**Brian Biagioli, EdD**

President

Coalition for the Registration of Exercise Professionals

<sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). Active People, Healthy Nation: At a glance. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/active-people-healthy-nation/php/at-a-glance/index.html>.



## MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

### AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EXERCISE (ACE)

As a proud founding member of the Coalition for the Registration of Exercise Professionals (CREP), the American Council on Exercise (ACE) is committed to collaborating with like-minded organizations to establish and uphold industry standards. Through this partnership, ACE works diligently to elevate the role of exercise professionals, ensuring they are recognized as essential contributors to public health and wellness.

Within CREP, ACE plays a pivotal role in maintaining a trusted, internationally recognized registry of health and exercise professionals. This registry serves as a valuable resource for both the public and the healthcare community, reinforcing the importance of qualified professionals in delivering safe, effective guidance that promotes lifelong physical activity and overall well-being.

**“ACE is honored to be a longtime partner and supporter of CREP, working collectively to set industry standards and amplify the critical role of exercise professionals within the healthcare continuum. Together, CREP organizations help ensure that the public receives high-quality, evidence-based guidance, fostering active lifestyles that lead to positive health outcomes.”**

- Cedric X. Bryant, PhD, FACSM, President & Chief Science Officer  
American Council on Exercise

### AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SPORTS MEDICINE (ACSM)

ACSM proudly stands as a founding member of CREP. By collaborating with like-minded organizations, ACSM promotes professionalization efforts in the workforce to foster excellence and trust in the field. In collaboration with CREP, ACSM can achieve its vision by ensuring communities have access to qualified health fitness professionals. ACSM aims to seamlessly integrate these professionals into the continuum of multidisciplinary health care teams to enhance patient care and outcomes. By leveraging the collective expertise and advocacy efforts of CREP, member organizations can promote registered exercise professionals as the standard in the health fitness industry, playing an integral role in holistic care delivery in their communities.

**“ACSM is committed to setting industry benchmarks and amplifying the essential role of registered health fitness professionals. Together, we can elevate efforts to raise awareness of registered professionals, improve access, foster safe and effective guidance for active lifestyles, and cultivate positive health outcomes in our communities.”**

- Katie Feltman, CAE, Interim CEO  
American College of Sports Medicine

### THE COLLEGIATE STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACHES ASSOCIATION (CSCCA)

The Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association is committed to developing elite strength and conditioning coaches who positively influence their athletes and organizations they serve. Athlete health and safety is our number one priority and is strongly emphasized throughout our educational content, certification and recertification requirements. As a leading organization in the field of strength and conditioning, we take pride in our collaborative efforts with organizations like CREP and their AthleteAlive2025 initiative. Additionally, our collaboration with the NSCA to publish the “CSCCa and NSCA Joint Consensus Guidelines for Transition Periods: Safe Return to Training Following Inactivity” continues to be a resource of best practices for our certified coaches as we uphold our mission of prioritizing athlete health and safety.

**“Our partnership with USREPS ensures a reliable registration system and real-time credential verification, instilling confidence in consumers, employers and regulators as they verify the qualifications of strength and conditioning professionals.”**

- Beth Byron, MS, MSCC, Chief Science Officer  
Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association

## ABOUT US

CREP is a not-for-profit 501 C(6) corporation composed of leading certification organizations offering NCCA or ISO 17024 accredited programs for distinct exercise professional roles recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor. Primary to the mission of the Coalition is to provide individuals of all ages and abilities with resources and leadership to assist in safely and effectively reaching their goals of achieving more active, healthy lifestyles through movement, physical activity or exercise for recreation or performance.

CREP advances its mission by maintaining the United States Registry of Exercise Professionals® (USREPS®), an internationally recognized registry of exercise professionals in the United States, and as an advocate for the exercise professional who holds NCCA- or ISO accredited exercise certification on issues that pertain to regulation, access and scope of work. Current exercise certifications of member organizations listed in USREPS include Certified Personal Trainer, Certified Group Fitness Instructor, Medical Exercise Specialists, Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist, and Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist.



# MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

## NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CERTIFIED PERSONAL TRAINERS (NCCPT)

NCCPT sees many benefits of being a member of CREP. Our partnership contributes to a more cohesive and professional fitness industry, benefiting both professionals and the public they serve. CREP allows for a greater level of standardization in the fitness industry. It ensures our NCCPT candidates meet minimum standards of education, experience, and competency which only backs up the expectations of those professionals in the field. CREP organizations are committed to promoting public safety and ensuring quality fitness industry professionals. This achievement adds credibility to the NCCPT credential. Due to CREP's work in advocacy, NCCPT is represented in the broader discussions regarding regulation, licensure, and other industry-related matters at the legislative and regulatory level. NCCPT is honored to be a partner in CREP's mission and goals.

**“As the fitness industry continues to evolve, the alignment between our mission to bring healthy living to everyone through education and community and CREP’s commitment to advancing professional recognition becomes increasingly vital. Through our partnership with CREP, we’re creating a stronger foundation where certified exercise professionals can effectively serve diverse populations worldwide. The recognition of these professionals’ expertise by healthcare providers, policymakers, and the public is essential to achieving our shared vision of a healthier world. By supporting CREP’s efforts to establish clear professional standards and recognition, we’re ensuring that quality education translates into trusted, effective service delivery across medical, health, fitness, and sports performance settings. This partnership symbolizes how professional registration and comprehensive, science-backed education work hand in hand to elevate both practitioner excellence and public health outcomes.”**

- Warren Heffelfinger, CEO  
National Council for Certified Personal Trainers (NCCPT)

## NATIONAL COUNCIL ON STRENGTH AND FITNESS (NCSF)

As a leading organization in the sport and fitness sectors and founding member of CREP, NCSF is proud to work collaboratively with the industry thought leaders and like-minded organizations that support CREP and the United States Registry. With initiatives like Athlete Alive 2025, USREPS workforce recognition efforts, and global standardization of registration for exercise professional roles, CREP represents resource support and advocacy for validly credentialed professionals. The United States registration system for our exercise professionals, ensures world-wide recognition of the credentials they hold. The real time credential verification through the registry increases confidence by consumers, employers and regulators and differentiates those individuals with legally defensible certifications.

**“USREPS has been a brilliant utility to identify highly-skilled exercise professionals working in the United States. The global opportunity for portability of vetted qualifications in the US means our registered professionals serving institutions, organizations and the public-at-large can enjoy global recognition of their professional competencies.”**

- Brian Biagioli, Executive Director  
National Council on Strength & Fitness

## NATIONAL STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING ASSOCIATION (NSCA)

A founding member of CREP, the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) exists to educate, support, and empower every strength and conditioning professional. Aligned with CREP's mission to increase visibility and verifiable expertise, the NSCA champions knowledge and integrity through industry-leading certifications, cutting-edge research journals, and continuous professional development. Our rigorous certification process signifies a benchmark of excellence and a commitment to evidence-based practice, elevating the profession while safeguarding our practitioners and those they serve. The NSCA remains steadfast in advocating for the needs and recognition of strength and conditioning professionals, uplifting the criteria for quality and acknowledgment in the industry.

**“The NSCA is devoted to advancing the profession and amplifying the impact of our more than 60,000 members and certificants. We believe that every health and training environment can benefit from a certified strength and conditioning professional who embodies the highest standards of safety, efficacy, and ethical practice.”**

- Michael Massik, Executive Director  
National Strength and Conditioning Association

# OUR MISSION

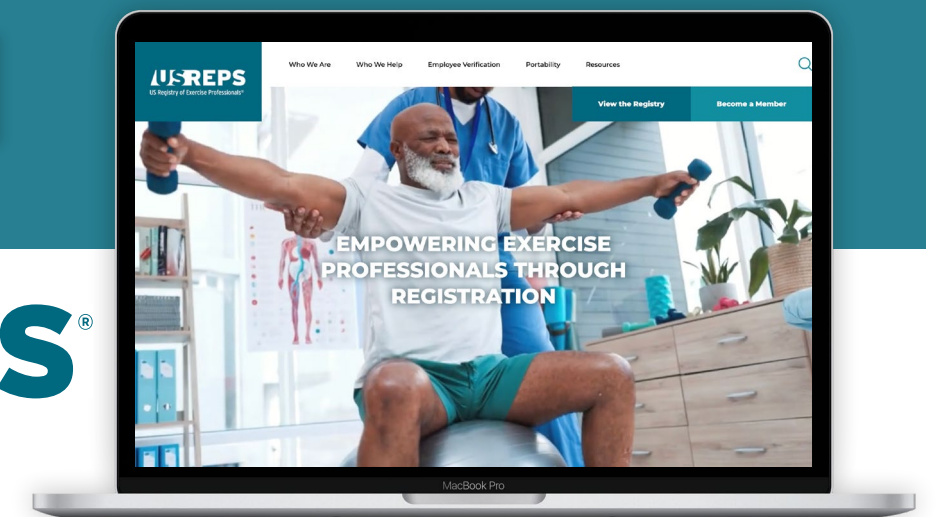
The **mission** of CREP is to secure recognition of registered exercise professionals for their distinct roles in medical, health, fitness and sports performance fields. CREP's **vision** is for consumers and other allied health professionals and policymakers to recognize registered exercise professionals for their leadership and expertise in the design and delivery of physical activity and exercise programs which improve the health, fitness and athletic performance of the public.



Visit our new website with enhanced registry features at [USREPS.ORG](https://USREPS.ORG)

LEARN MORE

# USREPS®





## TRENDING WHY WE CONTINUE OUR MISSION...



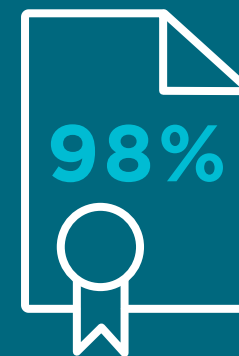
US Report Card on Physical Activity for Children is a D-.<sup>1</sup>



**1/3**

of young adult military applicants do not meet the Army's weight standards for enlistment.<sup>2</sup>

Physical inactivity also costs the nation  
**\$117 BILLION**  
a year for related health care.<sup>3</sup>

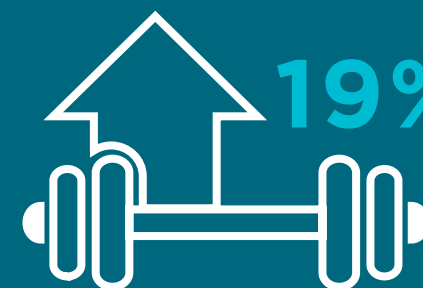


**98%** of employers require **NCCA-accredited** certification upon hire.<sup>4</sup>

Nearly **130,000** registered exercise professionals



in the USREPS database



**19%**

Employment of fitness trainers and instructors is projected to grow 19 percent from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://paamovewithus.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2022-US-Report-Card-on-Physical-Activity-for-Children-and-Youth.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/resources/unfit-to-serve/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/about/costs/index.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.clubindustry.com/top-100>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/Personal-Care-and-Service/Fitness-trainers-and-instructors.htm#tab-1>

# IMPACT

## ATHLETE ALIVE 2025

What started as a charge to protect student-athlete safety and well-being in collegiate training environments has become a recognition of best practices for coaches serving in strength and conditioning roles. The three years of research and committee work that established the entry-level competencies needed for safe and effective conditioning for sports has advanced to the recognition of high-quality programs at champion universities through the Athlete Alive 2025 student-athlete safety initiative. CREP has reviewed collegiate programs for compliance with NCAA standards, ensuring strength and conditioning coaches uphold safety and certification requirements.

Athlete Alive 2025 not only recognizes champion programs but also raises awareness among collegiate athletic departments about potential risks associated with strength and conditioning programs. While progress has been made, more work is needed to eliminate preventable injuries and deaths among student-athletes. CREP is committed to advocating for professional qualifications and promoting safety measures across all environments that serve student-athletes. The goal is for all collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches to achieve full compliance by 2025. Coaches registered with the United States Registry of Exercise Professionals (USREPS) already meet the foundational requirements for NCAA institutions.

If you or your organization would like to support this initiative, please contact our office at [info@usreps.org](mailto:info@usreps.org) to learn how you can help and spread awareness.



**DAVID BASS, WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY**

## ATHLETE ALIVE CHAMPION HIGHLIGHT

**“The Athlete Alive 2025 student-athlete safety initiative aligns perfectly with our Sports Performance Department’s mission to provide safe and effective strength and conditioning programs to optimize athletic development. We are proud to be recognized as an Athlete Alive 2025 champion**

- David Bass  
Assistant Athletic Director of Sports Performance  
Wake Forest University

## CREP WEBINAR SERIES

In 2023, CREP proudly launched a dynamic webinar series that laid the foundation for transformative knowledge exchange and industry collaboration. This thoughtfully curated series covered a wide array of topics critical to the evolution and sustainability of the health and fitness industry. What set this initiative apart was the exceptional caliber of panel participants, a distinguished blend of CREP members and esteemed leaders from the Board of Directors. By uniting thought leaders and practitioners from across the industry, CREP established a vibrant platform for sharing insights, best practices, and innovative ideas.

In 2024, this webinar program experienced tremendous growth, reaching new heights in engagement, participation, and impact. This remarkable progress underscored CREP's unwavering commitment to advancing its mission and driving meaningful progress within the health and fitness community.

As we look to 2025, the momentum continues to build with an expanded vision and even stronger lineup of topics and contributors. CREP anticipates surpassing the achievements of 2024, fostering deeper connections and delivering unparalleled value to our community. Together, we will continue to empower positive change and innovation across the industry.

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### Webinar 1: Unlocking Health through Movement: How Registered Exercise Professionals Should Prepare for Healthcare Referrals

Panelists: Graham Melstrand (Moderator), Elizabeth Joy, Laura Newsome, Jeff Jeran

**“This was a thought provoking webinar that explored efforts to transform healthcare and the fitness industry through movement. Panelists provided a comprehensive overview of progress linking fitness in healthcare. This was a great way to become part of a powerful movement, a powerful conversation.”**

Dr. Elizabeth Joy  
Chief Medical Officer  
Lore

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### Webinar 2: Navigating Global Waters: The Essentials of International Portability

Panelists: Francis Neric (Moderator), Thomas Richards, Graham Melstrand, Brian Biagioli, Gregory Nockleby

**“If you’re thinking about a career move overseas or just interested in broadening your understanding of global standards, this webinar is for you. We discussed the dynamics surrounding professional registrations across national borders. This was a terrific lineup of speakers”**

Thomas Richards  
Executive Director  
iCREPS

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### Webinar 3: Understanding HSA Reimbursements

Panelists: Francis Neric (Moderator), Amy Bantham, Mike Goscinski

**“There’s a whole lot of complex system of tax code and different laws that we pay attention to but at the end of the day what we want to ensure and that where you can feel comfortable is that all the conversations that we had in this webinar are really about helping you all continue to build the trust that you need with your clients and your customers in order to make sure that your business is successful and that your customers trust and lean on you for support in their physical activity.”**

Mike Goscinski  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
Health and Fitness Association

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### Webinar 4: Accreditation Matters: Preparing Future Leaders in Exercise Science

Panelists: Francis Neric (Moderator), Ben Thompson, Kysha Harriell, Colin Wilborn

**“We need to make sure that we bring people in when we can, whether it’s on an advisory committee or in the classroom to see what our students are doing and learning. From an accreditation standpoint I really do think it’s having students in different fields and having that stamp of accreditation.”**

Kysha Harriell, PhD, LAT, ATC, FNAP  
Associate Dean of Race, Equity,  
Diversity, and Inclusion | PhD in Exercise Physiology  
University of Miami

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### Webinar 5: Understanding Professional Boundaries for Exercise Professionals

Panelists: Chad Buckendahl, Susan Davis-Becker, Thomas Trautman, Francis Neric (Moderator)

**“If you work in certification program leadership or development, this was a great discussion. Our discussion highlighted the legal and ethical boundaries that define professional responsibilities. Attendees heard real world scenarios, common challenges, and learned practical strategies to navigate situations that test professional limits.”**

Susan Davis-Becker  
Founding Partner  
ACS Ventures

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### Webinar 6: Athlete Alive 2025: Celebration of Champions

Panelists: Brian Biagioli, David Bass, Darryl Conway Francis Neric (Moderator)

**“The Athlete Alive 2025 student-athlete safety initiative aligns perfectly with our Sports Performance Department’s mission to provide safe and effective strength and conditioning programs to optimize athletic development.”**

David Bass  
Assistant Athletic Director of Sports Performance  
Wake Forest University





## NATIONAL EXERCISE REFERRAL FRAMEWORK (NERF)

### NERF: Bridging Healthcare and Exercise Professionals for Better Patient Outcomes

The U.S. National Exercise Referral Framework (NERF) provides a structured system that facilitates collaboration between healthcare providers and qualified exercise professionals. It aligns the qualification of a U.S. registered exercise professional with the patient's health status, medical needs, and goals. By establishing exercise as a standard component of patient care, NERF helps integrate evidence-based physical activity into healthcare to improve health outcomes. This approach integrates exercise into patient care as a standard practice. Despite exercise being a proven way to help clients and patients manage and prevent chronic conditions (including, heart disease, diabetes, and obesity), healthcare providers often have difficulty in determining which exercise professionals are appropriately credentialed and possess the respective expertise.

### A Pathway for Physician Referral

The U.S. NERF established a clear, standardized framework for referrals for adjacent health occupations. The U.S. NERF helps healthcare professionals to quickly identify qualified exercise professionals based on education, training, and certification. As we make progress in adding exercise and physical activity as an expected part of healthcare, the U.S. NERF provides assurances to the public that they will receive safe and effective evidence-based, physical activity interventions.

The U.S. NERF framework categorizes referrals into four tiers of physician oversight:

- **Physician-Supervised:** Patients requiring medical oversight, such as those in cardiac rehabilitation or physical therapy
- **Physician-Referred:** Individuals with chronic conditions needing structured physical activity programs
- **Physician-Cleared:** Athletes and individuals participating in sports performance programs
- **Physician-Recommended:** People seeking general fitness and lifestyle improvements.

The U.S. Registry of Exercise Professionals (USREPS®) serves as a credential verification tool that directly connects with U.S. NERF to streamline the referral process. USREPS® ensures that only exercise professionals with verified credentials are integrated into NERF's structured referral system. This connection allows healthcare providers to confidently refer patients to professionals who meet industry standards and have demonstrated competency in exercise prescription and patient care. A seamless integration of the U.S. NERF and USREPS® creates a trustworthy system that enhances the integration of exercise and physical activity into healthcare.

The USREPS® database includes various specific job roles that are recognized by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics that include:

- Clinical Exercise Physiologists
- Medical Exercise Specialists
- Strength & Conditioning Coaches
- Personal Trainers
- Group Fitness Instructors





#### Driving Policy Change and System-Wide Adoption

CREP champions for opportunities that encourage healthcare providers to incorporate exercise into treatment plans. It advocates for structured referral pathways, reimbursement models, and physician education, positioning exercise as an essential healthcare service. In fact, there are pilot programs underway to test implementation best practices that will be used to provide data on health outcomes, cost savings, and improved access to physical activity interventions. This information helps shape long-term policy decisions and supports the future of healthcare integration. US NERF creates a clear and practical model for integrating exercise into healthcare by ensuring credentialed professionals deliver evidence-based exercise programs, and help bridge the gap between medicine and movement.

To learn more about NERF's strategic milestones, implementation roadmap, and impact on healthcare, download the full resource.

Download the  
NERF Report

LEARN MORE



# INTERNATIONAL PORTABILITY

## WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL PORTABILITY?

The International Confederation of Registers for Exercise Professionals (iCREPS) is a global society of countries with registration systems used to verify qualified exercise professionals who have met a common standard of practice. Those individuals registered by USREPS for the various exercise professional roles are vetted for these globally recognized qualifications providing a path of international portability between iCREPS member countries. This allows exercise professionals to seamlessly practice in various regions without the need for requalification. This is particularly significant in an industry where mobility and global opportunities are on the rise and international need for these services grow.

## CREP'S ROLE: A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

CREP, as the organization that powers the US Registry of Exercise Professionals (USREPS), recognizes the significance of international portability for our members. To ensure that our certification programs are recognized on a global scale, CREP actively participates in the International Confederation of Registers for Exercise Professionals on the board.

## WHY IS INTERNATIONAL PORTABILITY IMPORTANT?

- 1. Consistent Standards:** By collaborating with international counterparts, CREP ensures that the standards set for exercise professionals align with global best practices, fostering consistency and excellence.
- 2. Enhanced Credibility:** Our participation in international initiatives underscores CREP's commitment to maintaining high standards. This commitment enhances the credibility and reputation of CREP and the professionals on the US Registry.
- 3. Expanded Opportunities:** International recognition opens doors to a broader array of opportunities for CREP member organizations and their registered professionals. Whether it's pursuing new career paths, engaging in global collaborations, or furthering professional engagement portability links international best practices.

### ICREPS MEMBERS



# ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

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.

CREP continuously seeks opportunities to partner with policymakers, educators, health advocacy organizations, and other health and medical professions on policy that enhances the level of professionalism and opportunities for professionals who provide the leadership and expertise for communities looking to enhance their health, fitness or performance through movement, physical activity or exercise.

In 2024 CREP conducted a survey of member policy and health advocacy priorities and revised the focus of our efforts based on the most critical issues and opportunities for the exercise profession across the clinical, health, fitness, and performance spectrum. Our efforts for 2025 will be focused on the following areas:

- Advancing the exercise profession and securing recognition for professional's distinct roles in medical, health, fitness, and sports performance
- Advancing standards for education and credentialing within the exercise profession
- Promoting public health policy that prioritizes physical activity.
- Securing reimbursement and coverage determinations for physical activity/exercise programs and interventions
- Athlete Safety
- Labor Law that impacts the exercise profession
- Tax policy that impacts the exercise professional and their services
- Integration of the exercise professional into healthcare
- Based on these updated priorities for CREP and its members we monitored eighty-three pieces of state and federal legislation and served as a resource to educate policymakers about CREP, USREPS and the exercise profession and share our thoughts or concerns regarding their efforts.

## EXAMPLES OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT WE WORKED ON INCLUDED:

### Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act (S. 397) <sup>1</sup>

The "Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act" mandates the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish a report by December 31, 2029, and every 10 years thereafter, offering physical activity recommendations for the U.S. population. These reports, based on the latest evidence-based scientific and medical knowledge, will include general advice and specific recommendations for subgroups like children or individuals with disabilities. An updated report will also be published every 5 years after the first report to highlight new evidence-based practices and ongoing issues related to physical activity. While federal agencies must consider these recommendations when issuing their own physical activity guidelines, this Act does not affect the support for biomedical research or the presentation of scientific findings by federal agencies. Additionally, no physical fitness standards set by this Act will be legally binding on individuals.

### Florida High School Athletic Association (S.B. 430) <sup>2</sup>

The 2024 SB 430 bill, introduced by Senator Simon, proposes amendments to section 1006.20 of the Florida Statutes, mandating the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) to implement bylaws that require member schools to offer specific health care services to student athletes. These bylaws, as advised by the FHSAA's Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, should ensure comprehensive health care for student athletes, mandate the hiring of qualified health care practitioners for contact sports, regulate the management of student athletes' health information, and provide training for non-health care personnel in emergency response and collaboration with health care providers. The act is scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2024.

**The State of Louisiana introduced a sales/use tax bill HB 9 which would have imposed a sales tax on personal training, group exercise classes and sports performance coaching. CREP worked collaboratively with the Health and Fitness Association (HFA) <https://www.hub.healthandfitness.org> to defeat the bill which would have increased costs for consumers seeking to improve their health and wellbeing and created an unnecessary burden on facilities and exercise professionals.**

## ADDITIONAL EFFORTS INCLUDED:

### Athlete Safety

- Publication of the Joint Recommendation as a requirement across all divisions
- Education of key stakeholders: professionals, athletic directors, institutions
- Implementation of requirements + compliance (Athlete Alive 2025)
- Addressing the gaps in qualifications of individuals providing strength and conditioning programs at the high school level

### Input to the Physical Activity Alliance "It's Time to Move" Initiative

- Ongoing support for physical activity assessment, prescription and referral as a standard of care
- Promotion of the U.S. National Exercise Referral Framework (NERF) as a resource to assist healthcare providers identify the most appropriately qualified exercise professional to support their patients exercise programs and interventions

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/bills/118th-congress/senate-bill/397>  
<sup>2</sup> <http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/430>



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**BRIAN BIAGIOLI**

President

The United States Registry of Exercise Professionals® is operated by the Coalition. The Coalition has a volunteer Board of Directors composed of individuals representing qualifying member organizations. The Board and two non-voting Advisory Directors are elected to a specified term. The two Advisory Directors, one from each organization, represent elected individuals from the Committee on Accreditation for the Exercise Sciences (CoAES) which accredits two-year, four-year and graduate level programs in Exercise Science and the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), which works to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the public through the accreditation of a variety of certification programs/organizations that assess professional competence.



**CEDRIC X. BRYANT**

Vice-President



**FRANCIS NERIC**

Past-President



**BRENT ALVAR**

Treasurer



**BRENT FELAND**

Secretary



**CHAD BUCKENDAHL**

Advisory Director



**BEN THOMPSON**

Advisory Director



**DANIELLE VITOGIANNES**

Executive Officer

# COLLABORATORS

CREP would like to thank the following organizations for their ongoing support and commitment to advancing the exercise profession, which is crucial to fulfilling CREP's mission. CREP's board members are in leadership positions at these vitally important institutions. Our collaborative efforts enhance the credibility of registered exercise professionals and provide opportunities to strengthen and extend CREP's mission of ensuring that exercise professionals meet the highest standards of competency and professionalism in the health fitness industry.





## JOIN CREP

### MEMBER BENEFITS

Joining the Coalition for the Registration of Exercise Professionals (CREP) is an invaluable decision for certification organizations seeking to enhance their standing within the fitness industry. CREP membership unlocks benefits designed to bolster the credibility and recognition of members and their certificate holders. CREP oversees the US Registry of Exercise Professionals (USREPS), a comprehensive repository of qualified exercise professionals. This affiliation not only establishes a certification organization's commitment to professional standards but also provides a prominent platform for exposure within the fitness community. Members enjoy enhanced visibility, as their certifications are prominently featured in the USREPS database, fostering trust and confidence among both industry professionals and the public. Additionally, CREP offers collaborative opportunities, enabling organizations to participate in shaping industry standards, staying current of the latest trends, and elevating the quality and credibility of exercise professionals across the United States.

### HOW TO JOIN

In order to be eligible for membership, a certification organization must meet the following criteria:

- Be engaged in the fitness business
- Offer no less than one current certification program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies ("NCCA") for an exercise professional role defined by the U.S. Department of Labor or one ISO 17024-compliant certification exam program for an exercise professional role defined by the U.S. Department of Labor.
- Provide certifications or credentials which are (A) NCCA accredited or ISO 17024-compliant, (B) are in the process of receiving NCCA accreditation or ISO 10724 compliance review, or (C) for which an NCCA accredited certification or ISO 17024-compliant certification serves as a prerequisite.

The United States Registry of Exercise Professionals\* will display all of the current NCCA-accredited or ISO 17024-compliant certifications that an individual holds from member organizations. No specialty certifications or other credentials will be listed on the Registry.

**At this time, individual membership is not offered. Member organizations are required to pay dues and registration fees to support the Registry and the other work of the Coalition.**

## UNDERSTANDING SCOPE OF PRACTICE

**Chad Buckendahl, CREP Advisory Director  
ACS Ventures, LLC**

Accredited certification programs are required to conduct job task analysis studies that systematically evaluate the knowledge, skills, and abilities for the practitioners who hold the credential. These studies focus on the tasks expected of credential-holders at the point of initial certification. However, defining these job-related characteristics may not provide insights for programs or the public about the upper and lower boundaries of practice for certificants. Further, the intent of the job task analysis may be too narrow to provide information that could inform other components of the program such as eligibility or maintenance of certification.

In contrast, licensed professions that are regulated by licensing boards or regulatory authorities are guided by legislatively-approved practice acts that define the upper and lower limits of the scope of practice for the credential. Developing a scope of practice considers the range of expectations for a credential - not just the entry point. The outcomes of this process help programs determine where they overlap or are unique from other professions. Certification programs benefit from being able to better differentiate themselves from other credentials or roles that the public may see as interchangeable. In addition, a scope of practice can help a program expand its ecosystem from the point of initial certification to career pathways, professional development, and related opportunities for enhancing value to credential holders.



# PREMIER PARTNER PROGRAM

## A NEW WAY TO ENGAGE WITH CREP

The CREP Premier Partner Program offers an exclusive opportunity to elevate your organization's visibility and influence within the industry. By joining this new initiative for 2025, your company will have unparalleled access to the CREP network, fostering deeper connections with key decision-makers and positioning your brand as a thought leader. This program is designed to enhance your engagement, amplify your reach, and align your organization with CREP's mission to drive industry innovation and collaboration.



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Build valuable relationships with industry leaders through exclusive networking opportunities.



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