



Vitruvian Health

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INFORMATION

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Hamilton Sports Medicine's Kennedy receives National Athletic Trainer Award

DALTON, Ga. (June 12, 2026) – Hamilton Sports Medicine's Megan Kennedy has received a national award for her work as an assistant athletic trainer at Dalton State College.

The National Athletic Trainers Association – Intercollegiate Sport Medicine Council (NATA-ICSM) recognizes one athletic trainer each year with the Doug Boersma New Horizon Award. The award honors a college athletic trainer who demonstrates commitment to their student athletes, institutions and the athletic training community.

"Megan is a great leader on our team," said Ryan Bonnano, Hamilton Sports Medicine manager. "She's looked up to and trusted by the entire staff, her school and her athletes. We are extremely proud of her and her achievements."

Kennedy, MS, LAT, ATC, will be recognized at the NATA Clinical Symposium in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 30. She has worked at Dalton State for three years.

Sherman Howze, Hamilton Sports Medicine head athletic trainer, said Kennedy's overall growth in what is her first official full-time job is remarkable. Prior to Dalton State, she was at the University of Denver.

"Watching her grow over the years and distinguish herself as an athletic trainer who has impacted the whole athletic program has been a privilege," he said. "She has had the composure in her role to help mentor other athletic trainers who had questions or needed to learn something."

Howze said Kennedy especially inspires young women, including student athletic trainers she mentors, to reach their fullest potential in what is traditionally a male-dominated field.

"The nominations for this award are open to every athletic trainer in a collegiate setting — from large universities to smaller institutions," Howze said. "She won it, and that is wonderful."

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Photo: Megan Kennedy

About Hamilton Sports Medicine

Hamilton Sports Medicine, a Hamilton Medical Center program, provides athletic trainers for outreach athletic assistance at Dalton State College and local high schools, including Christian Heritage, Dalton, Northwest Whitfield, Southeast Whitfield, Murray County, North Murray, Coahulla Creek and Calhoun. As part of the program, an athletic trainer is on-sight at the schools and at community sports events.

About Vitruvian Health

Vitruvian Health, formerly Hamilton Health Care System, is a not-for-profit, fully integrated health system serving the Northwest Georgia and Southeast Tennessee regions. Vitruvian includes Hamilton Medical Center in Dalton, Ga., and Bradley Medical Center in Cleveland, Tenn., affiliated physician practices, walk-in care centers, retirement and skilled nursing centers, a diagnostic center, a cancer institute, an institute for children with developmental delays, and more. Known for its advanced care and personalized service, Vitruvian Health offers innovative treatment options in state-of-the-art facilities while maintaining a compassionate, friendly and tranquil healing environment.

The Vitruvian name draws from the organization's recognizable da Vinci-inspired Vitruvian Man icon, which has been a prominent part of Hamilton's logo since 1976. Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man represents harmony, balance, and the interconnectedness of all aspects of health, perfectly aligning with Hamilton's integrated system of care.