

CEO Report January 2022

It's been six months since we launched The Academy, and it feels like the organization has been operating for the last 100 years. Why? Those involved in The Academy make it seem like a "family" that is passionate, hardworking, and functioning well. It seems easy to talk with like-minded people who want to be involved and make a difference! Daily conversations, weekly meetings, and the passion displayed by everyone are truly breathtaking and a gift.

During the pandemic, I reflected on my own life, and that old saying, 'Distance yourself from the people who bring out the stress in you and move closer to those who bring out the best in you', came to life when I became involved with The Academy members and leadership team. We each need to be part of a larger vision, one that not only states it 'inclusive', but an organization that is inclusive. A vision in which the people we work with, bring out the best in us.

I had a new committee member ask me a couple of months ago, "What is it that you would like me to do?" My response was, "What ideas do you envision and would like to make happen?" This person's talents are numerous, and I wanted to learn from them, and assure them that the sky is the limit! Let me make this clear, The Academy is all about making members and their gifts a priority. This organization is all about inclusiveness, positivity, and endless possibilities.

I am proud to announce and welcome our newest partner, NASSDPA, the North American Same-Sex Partner Dance Association! The Academy supports its mission, which "embraces all configurations of a dance couple and all dancers." The Academy continues to extend our reach and to collaborate with like-minded organizations that seek to serve, support, and uplift one another in helping others within the health and physical literacy realms. I wish all of you peace, rest, calm, and a spirit of joy in 2022.

Maria Melchionda, CEO
National Academy of Health and Physical Literacy (The Academy)