

JOE DEUTSCH - BIO

I started my 25-year professional career on the Standing Rock reservation in North Dakota and taught K-12 Physical Education as well as Head Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, and Boys & Girls Track coach. While this was a great experience for me at the time, it not only allowed me to experience everything but also helped me see where my strengths within the profession lay. I then spent the next 5 years teaching elementary physical education. I absolutely loved teaching elementary students and would still be doing so if I had not moved to the higher education level. Preparing PETE students and Coaches for the past 19 years at North Dakota State University, I was blessed to have great mentors who were not only heavily involved in leadership but, more specifically, NDSHAPE and SHAPE America. Because of this, I became a “Lifetime Member” of AAHPERD/SHAPE America and was presenting and serving five years into my career.

I have served several roles/offices in our state association, including serving as NDSHAPE President on two separate occasions. I also received opportunities to serve SHAPE in several roles, such as the awards and convention planning committees, to serving as Central District SHAPE President and as a member of the SHAPE America Board of Directors for the last three years. All these leadership opportunities have taught me how to serve at the ground level (state), where decisions are a group effort, and so is the execution of the plan.

At the district and national levels, my role changed to helping drive philosophy, vision, and mission while our amazing staff does the majority of the execution. Service at every level has challenged me to be an advocate for lifelong physical activity, including going to the state and national capitols (Speak Out Day) to show support for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) funding for physical education and physical literacy. I have also recently completed co-editing the 5th edition of SHAPE America’s Physical Best textbook, which promotes life-long physical activity and concepts-based fitness.

Throughout my work with SHAPE America I have also been a big supporter and proponent of the Health.Moves.Minds FUNdraiser (state representative). In my opinion, HMM is the future of SHAPE both conceptually (SEL) and financially.

I have had the opportunity to present over 100 times at the state, national, and international levels. Through my work on the SHAPE board of directors, I am very aware of SHAPE’s desire to continue to branch out and be a true representation of our entire profession. Therefore, we must focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion as well as emphasize an inclusive whole-child approach to the schools. I know these quality professionals are out there teaching; we simply need to reach out to more of them and show the value of the association and our desire to have them be a part. They may just need a moment of our time and an encouraging word.