

Volume 1, Issue 8

April 2024



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Alabama Society for Respiratory Care

ASRC Annual Conference

We had a blast with outstanding presentations and vendors! Mark your calendar to join us next year! Will be back at the Orange Beach Convention Center, The Wharf on April 7-9, 2025!



ASBRT Call to Action

Our voice was heard! Thank you to everyone that engaged with their representatives. The bill proposed to consolidate the ASBRT with 38 other boards was amended on April 2, 2024 to exclude RT.

This exclusion serves to safeguard our profession's future in Alabama. Protecting the autonomy of our licensure board, which is vital to maintaining the efficiency, financial independence, and streamlined processes that directly benefit both the board and its licensees.



AAE National Asthma Educator Course



The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently teamed up to host a National Asthma Educator Course in conjunction with the Alabama Asthma Coalition. Held on January 26th and 27th, this event aimed to prepare participants for the NBRC AE-C exam. This course was provided free of charge through a UAB and EPA partnership. By bringing together healthcare professionals, this event not only is advancing asthma education in Alabama, but also fostering collaboration among multiple disciplines. Good luck to everyone who will take the exam and Congratulations to those who have already passed!



ASRC returns to HOSA State Leadership Conference

The ASRC participated in the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Leadership Conference on February 29th in Montgomery, Alabama. This is the second year the ASRC has been able to participate in this conference which brings together nearly 2,000 of Alabama's best Future Health Professionals. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped increase awareness of our profession!



Early Professionals Conference

St. Vincent's Birmingham again hosted the Annual ASRC Early Professionals Conference on February 22nd.

This conference is a great opportunity for early professionals to interact with each other and possible employers.

Thanks to all the employers, speakers, and ASRC Board Members who helped make the conference a success and special experience for our RT students!



Jacksonville State University



University of North Alabama



Jeff State Community College



Trenholm State Community College



Shelton State Community College



Alabama RT inducted into the National Academies of Practice

Jabril Diamond, ASRC North Alabama District Representative and UNA Respiratory Therapy Program Director was recently inducted into the National Academies of Practice (NAP) Respiratory Care Academy. Jabril is one of only the second group of RT's to be inducted into NAP. She was also able to present on Alabama Asthma Camp and Coalition, bringing light to her efforts in the state.

Please join us in congratulating Jabril on her accomplishments and continued success!

Pictured Top Right (left to right): Jabril Diamond, Linda Gibson-Young, Ellen Buckner

Pictured Bottom Left: Jabril Diamond

Pictured Bottom Right: Current and new NAP inductees



Three Generations of RT's

The NBRC is sharing the voices of Respiratory Therapists in collaboration with the AARC and CoARC. Go here: <https://morerts.com/your-voices/> to watch a video with our very own Robert Johnson who is a Senior Director for Respiratory Care for UAB Hospital and current ASRC president-elect, and his daughter Courtney Bates, who is a Respiratory Therapist in the ER at Children's of Alabama and ASRC PACT Fly-in Representative. Courtney is also featured in our Board Member Highlight later in the newsletter!

Advancing Respiratory Care: National Legislation

The SOAR Act (HR 7829, S 3821)

Represents a landmark effort to amend the Social Security Act, introducing a new payment methodology for oxygen. The hope is to fix the problems created by the Medicare Competitive Bidding Program, which resulted in a restriction of oxygen sources, such as liquid oxygen, to patients requiring supplemental oxygen. This legislation addresses a critical need within the respiratory care community, ensuring equitable reimbursement for services and facilitating timely access to respiratory therapists for patients in need. The introduction of HR 7829 was a direct result of advocacy efforts, including the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) 2023 Fly-in, where respiratory therapists and other stakeholders champion

policies, such as these that advance the profession.

Sustainable Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Services in the Home Act (HR 1406, S 3021)

These bills represent a push to allow patients to participate in Cardio and Pulmonary Rehabilitation virtually. This is vital to rural communities in Alabama, where patients often face limited access to healthcare resources. This service was enabled by waiver during the COVID pandemic and HR 1406 and S 3021 allow for its continuance. It's important to note that the waiver allowed RTs to provide these rehab services.

As respiratory therapists continue to play an indispensable role in healthcare

delivery, national legislation remains instrumental in shaping the landscape of respiratory care. The SOAR Act, Strengthening Respiratory Care Access Act, and initiatives supporting telehealth services underscore a commitment to enhancing patient access, improving outcomes, and advancing the profession as a whole.

You can find more information about legislation and legislative initiatives important to the AARC at <https://www.aarc.org/advocacy/federal-advocacy/>

Also, ensure you keep up with current issues affecting Alabama Respiratory Therapists by joining the AARConnect Alabama Society Community.

ASRC Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to UNA student Meagan Curtis and JSU student Nashaina Hartline!! Please let these student know we are proud of them and all of their hard work!

Pictured below: Jerry King, Jabril Diamond, Meagan Curtis, and Erin Cantrell

Pictured right: Nashaina Hartline and Ed Goodwin



ASRC Student Board

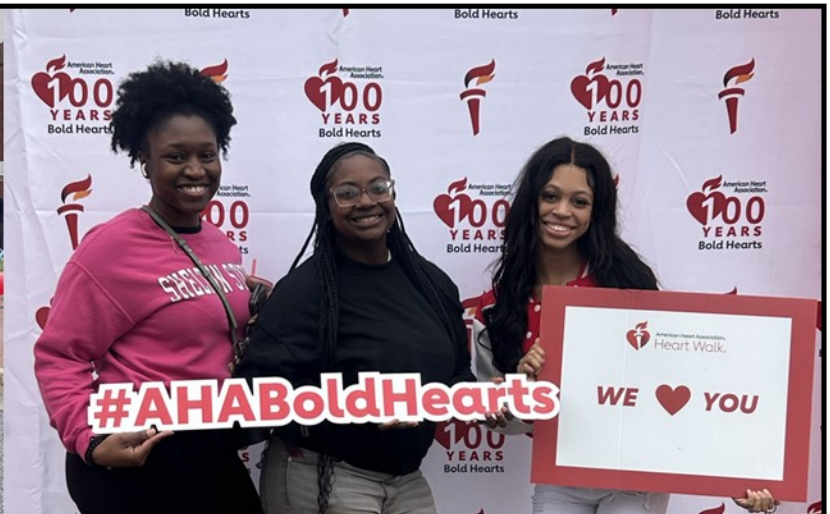
In an effort to enhance student engagement and foster a sense of community, RT Educators throughout Alabama are working to establish a ASRC Student Board. Once convened, they will meet virtually for collaborative dialogue, ensuring that student perspectives are actively considered in the broader decision-making processes.

We were able to have a student representative at our most recent board meeting, and look forward to future participation.

This innovative initiative not only empowers students to have a voice in shaping the direction of their education and future profession but also underscores the commitment of ASRC members in fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for the next generation of respiratory therapists.



Wallace Community College Foundation and Respiratory Therapist program have named the recipients of the DR. ALLEN AND RONNIE LATIMER RESPIRATORY THERAPY LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP for the year 2024. The two students to receive this scholarship are Jessica Bradley (left) and Jasmine Miller (right). Both are extremely wonderful students who will be a true asset to any Respiratory Care team. These students had to meet the following qualifications; have a 3.5 GPA or higher, exhibit honesty, compassion, respect, empathy and caring toward patients, families, therapists, and fellow peers. The students must portray excellent work ethic, including attendance and punctuality, strong clinical skills with high-level critical thinking. The ability to work well with others, accept criticism and adjust accordingly, and display strong communication skills. The students must be assertive and have the ability to take the lead in all situations. The students must be willingly to go above and beyond to complete any task, and provide the professional and ethical surroundings for patients to thrive.



The Shelton State Community College Association for Respiratory Care Students (SSARCS) participated in the Tuscaloosa Heart Walk on March 2, 2024 to help increase awareness about heart disease and raise donations for the American Heart Association.

Student Update Continued...



Above: WSCC students have been participating in healthcare showcases for CATA and HOSA students as well as local 10th graders to educate and publicize our profession.



Above left: WSCC Junior student, Anna Cole, teaching CATA students about intubation.

Above right: WSCC senior student, Dalton Duncan, showing off our healthy pig lungs vs smokers lungs.



Left: WSCC has participated in Interdisciplinary Simulations with other WSCC disciplines. Junior student, Jazmin Sanchez, participating in a pediatric simulation with nursing students.

Student Update Continued...



Congratulations to Trenholm State Community College 2023 graduates who have recently passed their clinical simulation exam!

Left: Brenda Davis, Center: Raven Johnson, Right: Sarah Pierce



Coastal Alabama Community College is winding down their first semester. Photographed above are eight students who attended the ASRC Annual Conference in Orange Beach!

Student Update Continued...

JSU updates: In March, JSU RT was awarded Continued Accreditation from the CoARC. They had no recommendations on findings at their site visit in October 2023, and were voted on to be awarded Continued Accreditation at the March CoARC Board Meeting. In April, JSU RT will host their annual Senior Recognition / Pinning Ceremony. They will celebrate the accomplishments of the JSU RT Class of 2024. They have 26 seniors on track to graduate May 3rd!



At the 2024 ASRC Annual Conference and Exhibits, JSU RT Senior, Katie Hooks, shared her story of being a vent patient during COVID, to now finishing her BSRT Degree. She was one of the favorite presentations during the entire conference and received a standing ovation! Thank you Katie for sharing your story!



Left: JSU Alum and Students in attendance at the 2024 ASRC Annual Conference and Exhibits.

Right: JSU Students in attendance at the 2024 ASRC Annual Conference and Exhibits.



Congratulations to the 2024 ASRC Award Winners!

- James “Jim” Cummings, Fred Hill Specialty Practitioner of the Year Award Winner, pictured top left
- Ed Goodwin, Rhonda Hood Award for Lasting and Sustainable Contributions to the Respiratory Therapy Profession Winner, pictured top right
- Carlos Taylor, Don Creel Award for Industrial Representative of the Year Winner, pictured bottom left
- Lisa Montiel, Brenda Basnight Award for Outstanding Service to the RT Profession, Mentoring, and Community Service Winner, pictured bottom right



ASRC Board Member Highlight: Christy Goodwin, BSHS, LRT, RRT, RRT-ACCS, AE-C



What started your path to Respiratory Therapy?

I was on track to apply to a nursing program, but didn't feel like it fit. I was

looking at other programs at my college and noticed Respiratory Therapy. I had NO IDEA what that was, but called and spoke with the program director. He arranged for me to shadow a therapist in the ICU for a day. I was sold!

Has anyone impacted your career in a meaningful way and how?

I have been fortunate to know and work with so many amazing therapists! I am happy with the direction of my career and wouldn't be here without them.

What is your favorite part of being on the ASRC board?

I love that we have a state organization which cares about Respiratory Therapists and the future of our profession. I am thankful that the ASRC board has given me the chance to be on the Political Action Committee and serve as a Fly-in Representative. We have the opportunity to speak with national and local politi-

cians to advocate for Respiratory Therapy and our patients. I'm also thankful to participate in the publications committee. It can be exhausting, but is incredibly rewarding!

How do you feel about the trajectory of the Respiratory Care Profession?

We really have the chance to improve and grow as a profession. Respiratory Therapists are vital to the future of healthcare, particularly with our expertise in life saving and sustaining equipment and the advent of AI. We will need to be willing to grow and change, but the possibilities are exciting!

Who is your favorite author?

All of them!! Seriously, I am a voracious reader and will take anything you have! I would say sci-fi and fantasy are my favorite genres, but I will read just about anything given the chance!

ASRC Board Member Highlight: Courtney Bates, CRT

What started your path to Respiratory Therapy?

My father and grandfather were both in respiratory. It's the family business.

What is your favorite part of being on the ASRC board?

Being able to facilitate in the growth of our profession. I like being involved and always have. Being on the board has opened doors for so many cool opportunities like traveling to D.C. and meeting with senators to bring awareness to our profession.

How do you feel about the trajectory of the Respiratory Care Profession?

I'm proud of how far it's come. My grandfather started as an aerosol technician. Seeing where we started and how far we've come makes me excited for the future. 4 years ago most people didn't know what an RT was. I can't imagine

how many changes will come to our profession in the next 20 years and beyond.

What did you want to do when you were young?

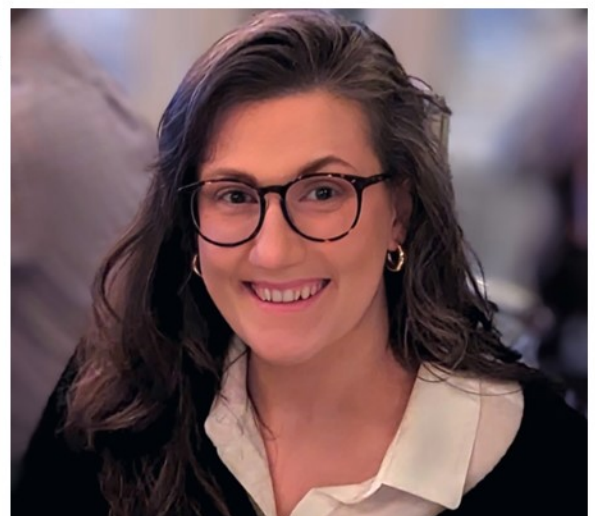
Like most kids, I wanted to be a veterinarian.

What is your favorite hobby?

I love to do anything on the water. Lake, beach, pool, water park, etc. I also just enjoy the outdoors like kayaking, camping and hiking.

ASRC BOARD MEMBER

This Quarter we are highlighting Christy Goodwin and Courtney Bates, both are Political Action Committee Fly-in Representative. We hope you enjoy getting to know your representatives!





President's Corner

Wow! 2024 has been a busy year already for the ASRC! The 2024 ASRC Early Professionals Conference in February and the 2024 Annual Conference and Exhibits at Orange Beach earlier this month were both highly successful. We are so thankful to connect with so many RTs at both conferences. We are excited for the return of our ASRC Tuesday Talks and looking forward to the upcoming ASRC Mini Conferences in Montgomery, Huntsville, and Birmingham! Please continue to visit the ASRC website to keep up to date with upcoming events.

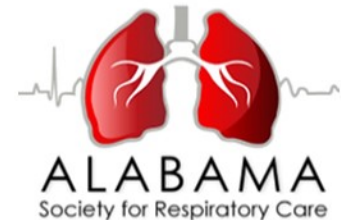
Elections - it is time! We are now accepting nominations for the ASRC Board of Directors. The current board term ends on 12/31/2024 and the new board will begin their term on January 1, 2025. Please consider getting involved! Please nominate RTs that can help make a difference in helping promote and advance our profession in our state.

Legislation - Thank you to everyone who helped call, text, email, and/or visit your state legislators recently to prevent Alabama RTs from being included in the proposed consolidation bill involving numerous state licensure boards. Your voices were heard, and we were excluded from the bill! Thank you! Please continue to stay involved and support other legislation proposed to support RTs such as the current bills discussed by our ASRC PAC committee.

Committees - did you know that you do not have to be elected to serve with the ASRC Board of Directors? We have several committees that you can be a part of and help the board promote and advance our profession in Alabama. We would love to have you involved. If you would like to be more involved, please email ASRC Executive Director, Jaime Goodwin, at alsrcinfo@gmail.com and let her know the areas you are interested in helping with. We will connect you with a board member and/or committee chair to get you involved. Remember, you have two options, you can accept things as they are, or you can get involved and help move our profession forward, either way, the choice is up to you! Only you can decide if you want to ensure that your voice is heard and help move Alabama RTs forward!

As always, Thank YOU for all that you do! Alabama RTs are the best! You make a difference every day.

Ed Goodwin, MSRT, LRT, RRT, RRT-ACCS, RPFT
Department Head & Associate Professor, JSU Respiratory
ASRC President; ASBRT Board Member
JSU College of Health Professions and Wellness
Office (256) 782-5431; pegoodwin@jsu.edu
www.jsu.edu/respiratory



CEU Opportunities!

May 14th: ASRC Tuesday Talk, ASBRT Executive Director, Elizabeth Sheehan, will present on Licensure, Law and Ethics

June: Montgomery ASRC Mini-Conference, stay tuned for more!

August: Huntsville ASRC Mini-Conference, stay tuned for more!

September: Birmingham ASRC Mini-Conference, stay tuned for more!

2024 ASRC Elections

We are kicking off the election process to select new Board Members who will guide us through the next chapter of our journey.

We are reaching out to seek nominations for individuals who are passionate, dedicated, and committed to the success of our organization. Your participation is crucial in ensuring that our leadership team reflects the community we serve, you! Please send nominations to alsrcinfo@gmail.com

Thank you to our 2024 Sponsors!



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