

My name is Kayla Cooper I am a paramedic and educator with Indianapolis Emergency Medical Services and have been a NAEMT member since 2016. I recently became a NAEMT instructor under the mentorship of Dennis Scales. After learning from and working alongside Dennis teaching EMT classes for the last year I believe he is the best candidate for the board of director's position. He is an experienced paramedic and instructor with a total of 16 years of service in EMS; who works every day to support The NAEMTS mission to support providers, advocate for education and research.

Dennis' support for providers goes beyond the teaching and instruction he brings to the classroom. In our service providers must pass a summative evaluation as the final step of completing the field training program. Dennis makes a point to be there before the evaluation to encourage and reassure the candidate. He is also present afterwards no matter what the outcome is. Dennis celebrates their success but is ready to debrief and discuss the situation when things don't go as planned. Providers know Dennis isn't done with them when they graduate his class. I see people stop by while on shift to talk with him, debrief runs, and I have personally seen students come in to thank Dennis for everything he has done for them.

In every aspect of his career Dennis remains an advocate for education and research. Dennis believes in making classroom training as realistic as possible, so providers get the most out of their training. For our PHTLS class he used his creativity to turn an IV arm into a realistic trauma arm that was spurting blood. Students were excited to get involved and gained a better understanding on tourniquet application, because they could see how proper application can control bleeding and potentially save a life. Dennis advocates for new education for our providers by bringing new NAEMT classes into our curriculum, most recently the breaking bad news class. Dennis noticed the lack in education about a skill that is difficult for many providers and found a solution. There was never a thought about having more on his plate or what extra work he's going to have to do to add to our class. He only thinks about how it will make stronger providers and how they will take that knowledge into their patient encounters.

After our last EMT class Dennis was asked by a student why he likes to teach EMTs, and his reply has stuck with me since. Dennis said the reason he began a career in EMS is because he wants to help people, but he is just one person. By teaching he can help an entire classroom of people help other people. I think this explains exactly the kind of person Dennis Scales is and given this position he will use that to continue his support and advocacy for education to reach a much larger group.

Kayla Cooper, Paramedic, PI