

As President of TSRT, is it equally important to focus on the future just as much as the present. The demand for healthcare professionals will grow, and so will the demand for radiologic technologists. With this ideal in mind, I will advocate for preventing a shortage of technologists. A shortage in the workforce will cause a decline in quality patient care. To address this concern, I will implement a plan of action for two main categories of focus: the need for new technologists, and the need to retain existing technologists. This plan will include accessing the situation of why there is a need, what can be done, and finally analyzing and improving the implementation.

The necessity of investing in the future workforce of radiologic technologists will dictate the future of our healthcare. The demand for radiologic technologists is predicted to increase. One reason for this growth is the aging population of baby boomers. To actualize recruitment an effective outreach will be put into place. TSRT will make connections at high schools and community colleges within the departments of sports, sciences, and arts. Students within these departments may already have an interest in learning about injury, how the body works, and an eye for detail. These connections can be made at events and job fairs. With the right exposure to students in these departments, they may gain an unknown interest in radiologic science. Many do not know the opportunities and plethora of avenues the job of a radiologic technologist can create. It just takes the right exposure to spark an unknown desire to learn something new.

In addition, TSRT can ask for volunteers to write a short essay as to why they decided to become a technologist. These experiences will be collected and can be used as online resources and print. This sharing can initiate a new outlook, and make a new goal appear a reality. Starting

a new program can be intimidating, but it will demonstrate that everyone must start out somewhere. This relatable encouragement could be that added push to get started on a new career.

The efforts set forth to increase interest in becoming a technologist will need to be measured and analyzed. The enrollment and graduation rates of new students will be collected. In addition, a goal of increased licensure from the Texas Medical Board will be created. An assessment of these numbers will help create future planning. The hope is with adequate outreach the increase in new technologists will improve patient care.

Advocating to keep existing radiologic technologists in practice is essential to the progress of our healthcare system. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many healthcare workers left the field. Some of which experienced burnout. Burnout can occur at any time, not just during a pandemic. That is why I will promote, through TSRT, an affirmation program. This program will encourage the act of seeing good in others, doing good for others, and allowing employees to feel acknowledged. The program will be based on a point system where employees are allotted a specific number of points to hand out each month to their co-workers. These points are sent with a message as to why you think they deserve them and the points can then be redeemed towards prizes. The program would be constructed through TSRT but conducted within individual facilities.

A form of evaluation for the current radiologic technologists' state of mind is through surveys. These surveys would be conducted at TSRT conferences and made available through the TSRT website. This will allow for insight into how technologists are reacting to workplace experiences and challenges. It can uncover issues and allow for new ideas on how to help fellow technologists. The optimism is to lend an ear to those that are active and help those in need.

As President, it is important to aim high and set forth conditions for the present and future. The necessity for quality care from radiologic technologists will continue to grow. Thus, it is important now to formulate a plan and ensure that the consistency of care will endure through new and existing technologists. Collectively the members of TSRT can come together and tackle this responsibility. I would help execute this plan; as well as, serve as a guiding light to help the success of the technologists of today and tomorrow.