

APTA New Hampshire – 2022 Annual Conference

Founded in 1990, Northeast Passage is a nonprofit organization based out of the University of New Hampshire that specializes in recreational therapy and adaptive sports. The mission of Northeast Passage is to empower people living with disabling conditions, both visible and invisible, to define, pursue, and achieve whole life health, community engagement, and personal fulfillment through the purposeful use of sports and recreation. NEP officially merged with UNH in 2000 after years of successful collaboration and serves as the service branch for the Recreation Management and Policy (RMP) department within the College of Health and Human Services.

Join Northeast Passage staff members, Tye Thompson and Danny Santos, to consider the roles of recreation participation, involvement in competitive team sport, and community engagement as vital components of not only physical health, but also social and emotional aspects of well-being for individuals who experience physical disability and chronic health conditions.

Tye Thompson (they/them) MS, CTRS/L, has over 28 years of experience in direct-service provision and program development for Recreational Therapy (RT) in both inpatient and community-based settings. They have a long history of serving individuals with complex and chronic health conditions, including physical disability and behavioral health needs, and have extensive experience in facilitation of RT interventions that support all aspects of health. Tye began working at Northeast Passage in 2007 as one of the primary therapists for the community-based recreational therapy program (C-BRT™) and moved into the position of Program Director in 2012. Over the past 10 years, they have worked to increase access to RT services in both veteran and public health sectors through development of relationships within health care systems, advocacy at state and national levels, and research engagement.

Danny Santos (he/him) has over 20 years of experience in adaptive sports and recreation both as an athlete and a coach, primarily in sled hockey. Danny grew up playing adaptive sports on Long Island and was recruited to attend the University of New Hampshire and compete for the Northeast Passage Wildcats sled hockey team. Following many years as a student-athlete at UNH and immersing himself in Northeast Passage, Danny was hired as a Program Assistant upon completing a semester-long internship. He has now been working at Northeast Passage for 5 years and has experience in different roles including the competitive sports program, recreational sports program, and community outreach programs. Danny currently serves as an Administrative Assistant and is often the first person people engage with when reaching out to Northeast Passage.