Known as one of the top athletic trainers in the National Football League, Rick Burkholder enters his 22nd NFL season, and his second with the Chiefs, in 2014.

On Feb. 19, 2014, Burkholder received one of the highest honors in his profession, as he was elected to a three-year term as President the Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society (PFATS). The goal of PFATS is to serve the players of the NFL, the member Clubs and other members of the community, while ensuring the highest quality of health care provided to the NFL.

Spending 14 years with Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid, who held the same position with the Philadelphia Eagles (1999-2012), Burkholder became well known for his expertise in his rehabilitation programs. He and his staff were recognized by their peers following the 2010 season, being named the NFL’s top training staff for the year.

Throughout his career, Burkholder has had numerous success stories rehabilitating players. In 2004, an aggressive rehabilitation program allowed wide receiver Terrell Owens to return from a surgically-repaired ankle in seven weeks to play in Super Bowl XXIX with the Eagles.

He also headed Duce Staley’s complicated rehabilitation program in 2001 that allowed him to return to the field after suffering a severe Lis Franc sprain in his foot. The process went so well, Burkholder has since been published and has spoken nationally on the Lis Franc injury and its rehabilitation process.

In addition, Burkholder also designed a rehab program for Steelers corner back Rod Woodson in 1995 after he suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in the season opener. With the rehab program, Woodson returned just four and a half months after surgery to play in Super Bowl XXX.

Burkholder has been very proactive in sports medicine, emphasizing programs that prevent and combat dehydration, asthma, and lower back injuries. In Philadelphia, he was instrumental in injury prevention as well by modifying the team’s stretching program and instituting a torso-strengthening program known as "back school."

Burkholder joined the Eagles training staff in February of 1999 after spending six season as an assistant athletic trainer with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Prior to joining the Steelers staff in 1993, the Carlisle, Pa., native spent three seasons as an assistant football athletic trainer at his alma mater, the University of Pittsburgh. A 1987 Pittsburgh graduate, Burkholder went on to earn his master’s degree in athletic training from the University of Arizona where he spent two seasons as a graduate assistant and another as an assistant athletic trainer.

Burkholder is a certified athletic trainer and a member of the National Athletic Trainers Association, the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Society, and the Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society (PFATS). While with Philadelphia, he served as the NFC head athletic trainer representative on the PFATS executive committee.

Burkholder first gained NFL experience serving as a summer intern with the New England Patriots training staff in 1986. He was influenced by his father, Richard, a long-time athletic trainer at Carlisle High School, and his mother, Nancy, a registered nurse.

In 2003, Burkholder and his father were named distinguished alumni of Carlisle High School and in 2013 Rick was honored with the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Society Distinguished Merit Award.

**Education:** Pittsburgh (B.S. 1987), Arizona (M.S. 1989). **Family:** Wife - Kristine; Children - Quinn Taylor and Carly Ann.