



Kenneth "Ken" Kopke – MATS Hall of Fame Inductee Class of 1991

Primary place of employment: Central Michigan University

Education:

- **Bowling Green State University (Masters, 1965)**
- **University of Toledo (Bachelors, 1964)**

Kenneth "Ken" Kopke made a difference within the Athletic Training profession through his clinical experiences and creativity. He served as an Assistant Athletic Trainer at Western Michigan University and Head Athletic Trainer at Central Michigan University (1969-1985). During his time at CMU, Ken also assisted the NATA in developing the first Athletic Training curriculum in 1973, which manifested into the first nationally recognized Sports Medicine (Athletic Training) major in 1980. Not only was Ken a president of MATS, but he also helped with the founding of MATS. In 1983, Ken launched a consulting company called Athletic Training Services, Inc (ATS) to connect Fortune 500 companies with Athletic Trainers to deliver healthcare to the industrial setting. This avenue allowed companies to invest in the health of their workers and contain medical costs associated with injuries that workers could have sustained. Ken secured several honors such as being a member of the CMU Hall of Fame (1992) and introduced to the NATA Hall of Fame as a member (2001). Ken passed away in August of 2021. People that knew Ken have described him as "a pioneer, forward-thinking, considerate, and dedicated to the Athletic Training profession."