

## **Lou Welch**

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Lou Taft Welch is the Executive Director of the Abilities Tennis Association of North Carolina, a statewide community tennis association serving athletes with intellectual disabilities. She played her college tennis at Peace College and holds a degree in Recreational Administration with a concentration in Therapeutic Recreation from East Carolina University. Lou is the 2019 USTA North Carolina Educational Merit Award winner given by Buster and Karen Brown, and in 2017 Lou won the NC Tennis Adaptive Award. Lou has served as Chair of the NC Tennis Adaptive Committee and is a current member of the board, while also serving on the Southern Adaptive Committee. Under Lou's leadership, Abilities Tennis expanded to serve over 500 athletes at 23 locations across the state and hosts seven annual tennis tournaments. Abilities Tennis was named the 2019 USTA North Carolina and USTA Southern Community Tennis Association of the Year. In 2018, Abilities Tennis was recognized at the US Open with the USTA National Adaptive Tennis Community Service Award. In 2019, Lou took 25 Abilities athletes to perform a demo in Arthur Ashe Stadium at the US Open before the Djokovic/Londero match.