

Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon

Viewpoint

Spring 2023 Newsletter



OTAO

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Message From the President



Lori Taylor, OTAO President

Welcome Summer, Oregon OT Practitioners! As I am preparing for the summer activities, I find myself completing a long list of duties...airing out our camping gear, refitting the kids' wetsuits, organizing the garage toys (still keeping my jump rope)! During tasks like this my thoughts drift and lately, I find myself reflecting on my personal call to duty for our OT profession. Now more than ever before, the inequities in our profession and society are being called out. I find myself being called to action by leaning into our state association. OTAO has become the space where I can collaborate with passionate OTP's to understand how we should be navigating OTLB's opposition to COMPACT, should we boycott AOTA 2024 in Florida or attend sharing our BOLD voice, how can we continue to support (#justiceforareneh), what will the future landscape look like for healthcare delivery in Oregon. I understand how cliché this sounds, but it is TRUE that membership is the only way our vision transforms into ACTION. As my term as OTAO President draws to a close, I ask that each of us become a member and bring a member to our OTAO organization. We need your resources, we need your voice! You are the future of OT!!!



2023 OTAO Conference Update



October 28th & 29th, 2023

Hello OTs, students, retirees, and community members. My name is Connie Liu, your 2023 OTAO Conference Chair.

I would like to formally invite you to our first **IN-PERSON** annual conference since 2019!

The conference will be held at Pacific University (main campus) in Forest Grove, Oregon.

We are working with Best Western for discounted room rates for those coming from afar.

I am excited to connect again with old friends and make new ones!

Call for papers is NOW OPEN! If you or someone you know is interested in presenting this year, it can be done at: www.otao.com/presenter-application

For additional and ongoing information about the conference, please visit our website: www.otao.com



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MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Occupational therapy has no limits — why should your career?



FOR MENTORS

Share your expertise with a new generation of OT practitioners and help strengthen the career you love.



FOR MENTEES

Explore a different OT avenue and facilitate your transition to a new adventure with experienced leaders in the community.



FOR OTPs

A more connected workforce leads to a stronger workforce; a stronger workforce bolsters occupational therapy as a vital part of our healthcare system.

Apply today!
Our pilot
program begins
January 2023



Mentorships will
take place over
six months,
virtually or in
person



Mentors and
mentees will be
eligible for
CEU/PDU credits
via OTLB and
NBCOT

AT A GLANCE

As a member of OTAO, you know the value of **professional connection**. Our new mentorship program brings these benefits directly to your career! Maybe you're an esteemed **master of your field** and want to give back to the profession by mentoring those beginning their careers. Maybe you've just received your license but **still have questions** about clinical practice. Or, you might be a **rural practitioner**, on the lookout for new ways to innervate your practice and connect with likeminded professionals.

You might have been drawn to occupational therapy because of the endless ways it can be used to help others — but what happens when you're ready to switch gears and try **another OT specialty**? Finding a mentor to guide your interest will give you the **knowledge, skills, and connections** you need to begin the next chapter of your career.

HOW TO APPLY

01

You must be a current OTAO member to apply as a mentor or mentee. Make sure you're signed into your OTAO account and **visit the URL below!**

02

Fill out the form corresponding to your interest. This is your opportunity to describe your perfect professional partnership, so the more information, the better.

03

OTAO board members will **evaluate applications** in January and introduce each mentor/mentee with their chosen partner. All subsequent communication, evaluation, and time commitments will be independently determined by each partnership.



OTAOregon



OTAOmembership@gmail.com



web.otao.com/otao-mentorship-program/

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Legislative Committee Update



We are still hopeful that HB2618, regarding caseloads for school-based providers, will pass in the Senate, but currently, there are Republicans who are not attending their sessions so that bills cannot be voted on. It has already been passed by the House and when it landed in the Senate the Senate education committee had a hearing on it & they voted it out of their committee so the last step is to have the full Senate vote on it.

If we get the opportunity for the bill to be voted on we are pretty confident that it will pass & require the Oregon Department of Education to do a work-study to look at the workloads of OT/SLP/PT school healthcare providers. This has been a collaborative process with OTA, OSHA & the various universities and colleges in Oregon that have OT programs with multiple joint statements being created to show support.

We are also in contact with APTA-Oregon and some physical therapists who are wanting to move forward with legislation next year around removing the requirement for pre-authorization to receive occupational therapy. This would remove the need for a physician's referral for OT/PT etc.

The Oregon OT licensure compact act was well supported by our lobbyist Niki Terzieff, AOTA, OTA, and Rep. Zach Hudson (District 49) carried the bill for us. He is a special education teacher himself and his wife is an SLP. They endorse that their child has been supported by occupational therapy and he was instrumental in bringing this bill to the legislature. Unfortunately, the Oregon OTLB has come out against enacting the compact and they were able to get the governor's office to support their opposition of the bill. Without the support of OTLB and the governor's office, the bill was put aside for now. Currently, the compact has been enacted in 27 states. It is heavily supported by the Department of Justice because many service members' spouses struggle with frequent moves to obtain licensure in various states.

For more information about the compact act you can go to otcompact.org



OT Month Event Updates

On April 8th, 2023 five OTs volunteered with SOLVE OREGON to clean up an area in downtown Portland.

WOW! What an event! An amazing crew of volunteers picked up 150 pounds of trash and debris (equal to about 240 potatoes!)

Keeping it functional and sanitary with our beloved adaptive equipment.



Lelia Boniadi, Katie O'Day, Emily Lorang, Liz Allen, & Aaron Proctor



Around the State: East to West, North to South, OT/A's are all around!



Suzanna Engber, COTA

Where do you live? ***I live in Eugene, Oregon.***

What do you love about the area you live in? ***I moved here about a year ago and am still exploring; I enjoy that Eugene lies in the middle of all the areas I frequent.***

What is your practice area? ***I am currently a pediatric outpatient occupational therapy assistant who works in Roseburg, Oregon.***

What is your favorite thing about work? ***I enjoy working with kiddos and being able to help them achieve their goals and work toward success in their primary areas of occupation; and being able to use my creativity and humor to help me accomplish that.***

What do you think is a major challenge in your community? ***The main challenge I have seen working in Roseburg is the limited resources due to the rural area and social class of the county.***

Are you a member of OTAO? ***I am a member of OTAO, and I feel a barrier to joining OTAO is the limited in-person interactions and the broad scope and expertise of individuals involved, which sometimes can be overwhelming and intimidating. I feel OTAO right now is great for my schedule; I try to attend the OTAO Night In's as much as possible, but the times are not always favored during the weekdays.***



What do you most value about OTA/O and/or your community of OT/A's? ***I love the community of occupational therapy practitioners with the diversity of being able to talk and share about umbrella terms yet also learning from each other more disciplined specific concepts.***

What do you look forward to in the next year? ***I look forward to growing as a practitioner and am excited, having almost completed one year since graduating.***



Suzanna Engber, COTA (Outlook of the Vista House at Crown Park, Oregon)



Western Oregon University – Oregon’s First Public University OTD Program!

Western Oregon University (WOU) is very excited to announce the launch of our new OTD Program on our Salem Campus! We will begin taking student applications in November 2023 through the OTCAS system and expect to notify students of acceptance in late April/early May 2024. The inaugural cohort will begin classes fall 2024.

The OTD program at WOU: Salem is committed to being the most financially affordable OTD in the state while also providing an exceptionally high quality entry-level OTD education. WOU OTD will be an 11-term (4 terms per year) program consisting of 147 term credits. Renovations to the WOU Salem campus will be ongoing over the next year in preparation for the inaugural cohort. We will have multiple faculty openings to fill over the coming year, if interested, see postings at: <https://wou.edu/hr/employment/jobs/> beginning this fall.

At this time, we are very happy to welcome Halley Read, PhD, OTR/L as our founding Doctoral Capstone Coordinator!

WOU OTD is scheduled to submit our Candidacy application to the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) in December 2023, with ACOTE reviewing it at their April 2024 meeting.

For more information, please contact:

Sean Roush, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTAFounding
Program Director

roushs@wou.edu



Client Success Story

By: Bobbi Ogren, OT Student, Class of 2023, Pacific University



**Image adapted from Gillette Children's website*

This athlete did not let her spinal cord injury get in the way of her goals. The individual attended a sports camp for youth who were wheelchair users. The world-renowned camp brought gold-winning Olympians with physical disabilities to coach the youth for the week. A day of the sports camp was dedicated to adapted water skiing in a top-of-the-line wake boat. Being on the lake was one of the main attractions to the participants, and the potential of missing their chance was devastating. While I assisted this athlete with catheter management, the young woman became distraught, knowing she could not comfortably attend the water sports day due to her menstruation cycle. After introducing alternative period products available and a little trial and error, she became more confident in managing her period. After this encounter, she felt prepared to join her peers on the boat for a day of adapted water skiing. *If you are interested in submitting a similar client success story, please email the newsletter committee at: otaosis.historian@gmail.com

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EST. 1947

