

SCROLL & PEN

Pi Theta Epsilon - Newsletter

National Honor Society of Occupational Therapy



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Dear Members of Pi Theta Epsilon,

I am excited to be writing my first letter to you as the new President of Pi Theta Epsilon. I am so grateful to former President Jaimee Hegge, who led PTE during my time as secretary. I hope to continue the important work completed during her tenure on the executive board. I am also looking forward to working with the current Vice President, Tracey Recigno, the new Secretary, Brenna Marillat, and the new Treasurer, Lauren Stone.

The 35th Annual Business Meeting of Pi Theta Epsilon was held during the AOTA Inspire Conference. During the meeting, one of my final tasks as the Secretary was to complete a roll call to determine which PTE chapters were represented. As I read down the list, calling out each university or college, I sat in awe that there are 147 active Pi Theta Epsilon chapters across the United States! With that robust number of chapters, one of my goals as President is to foster more engagement in the events offered by the national office, including the Annual Business Meeting, All-Chapter Orientation, and Faculty Advisor Workshop. Not only do we want you to know more about what is happening at the national level, but we also want to hear about the amazing things you are doing in your occupational therapy journey!

The executive board has big plans for the next two years, including an update to the PTE strategic plan. This will start with a SWOT analysis, part of which will include a survey of members, so be on the lookout for that soon! We value your input!

Last, I'd be remiss if I didn't say, **Happy Occupational Therapy Month!** And **thank you** for your dedication to the profession and for increasing the scholarship that supports occupational therapy's evidence base. I look forward to working alongside you and learning with you.

Sincerely,

Ann B. Cook, Ed.D, OTD, OTR/L, CPAM
President, Pi Theta Epsilon

PTE Launches Course 3 for Lifetime CEU Credit Members



THE AMERICAN
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
FOUNDATION



OCCUPATIONALTHERAPY.COM

Dates: On a rolling basis, May 5 - 18, 2025

Course description: Leadership, or becoming a leader, can feel outside of who we identify ourselves as occupational therapy professionals; however, with our unique skill sets, we are often qualified to step into a leadership role at work and in our communities. This course can help attendees understand leadership and how to grow and integrate their leadership skills into everyday, practical life situations, making a positive impact. **Length:** 1 hour

Presented by: Krista Covell-Pierson, OTR/L, CCB-PMD
Krista Covell-Pierson is an occupational therapist and founder of Covell Care and Rehabilitation, LLC, a unique mobile outpatient practice serving clients of all ages. She holds degrees in social work and occupational therapy from Colorado State University and has worked in hospitals, home health care, rehabilitation centers, and skilled nursing facilities. Krista teaches her business model to other therapists, was named Fieldwork Educator of the Year by Colorado State University (CSU), and served as President of the Occupational Therapy Association of Colorado.

RSVP: [David Robertson Course access](#)

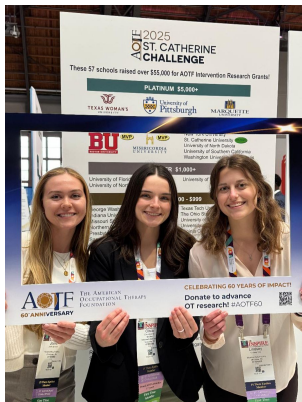
AOTF/Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) @ AOTA Annual Conference



Thank you to all our **Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) lifetime members and alumni** who joined us at the **AOTA Inspire Conference in Philadelphia!** Your presence made this year's events truly special. From engaging in "A Meeting to Meet Your Needs" to attending the PTE Annual Business Meeting and our lively VIP Reception, your continued connection and support were felt throughout the conference.

We were thrilled to welcome so many of you at the AOTF booth, where students picked up their PTE ribbons and swag, and proudly found their names on our Scholarship Recipients banners or saw their schools recognized for the 2025 St. Catherine Challenge—which raised over \$55,000 thanks to your amazing fundraising efforts to support the Intervention Research Grants (IRGs).

We're grateful for your dedication to PTE and to advancing the future of occupational therapy.



PTE Chapter Members & Alumni Attend PTE Events

PTE was well represented at this year's AOTA Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA. **However, at the Annual Business meeting, we need your vote to pass or fail the events at the 2025 Annual Business Meeting, due to meeting a quorum.**

You can find this form, as well as the Order of Business, in the delegate packets if you were President at the time. At the 2025 Annual Business meeting in Philadelphia on April 3, the vote was 27-0 to pass.

Find the form [here](#).

Meet your latest PTE Executive Team National

Welcome to the PTE Executive Team! We are excited to introduce our dedicated officers committed to fostering collaboration and driving positive change within our PTE community.

From left to right: Lauren Stone Kelley (Treasurer), Ann Cook (President), Brenna Merillate (Secretary), Tracey Recigno (Vice President).



[Meet the PTE Officers](#)

Current PTE Member Capstone

Hi! My name is Brianna Tersigni, I will be graduating from the Occupational



Therapy Doctorate (OTD) program at The Ohio State University this May. I earned my undergraduate degree in Health Sciences from the University of Dayton, with a concentration in occupational and behavioral studies and a minor in psychology and disability studies. Choosing OSU for graduate school has been one of the best decisions I have made.

These past three years have been an incredible journey and it has been an honor being a part of OSU's PTE chapter. Read more about [Brianna](#). Watch the interview with Dr. Ellis [here](#).

Alumni Feature

Erika Kemp, OTD, OTR/L, BCP, is a Clinical Associate Professor and interim program director of the Occupational Therapy Program at The Ohio State University. Dr. Kemp received her post-professional occupational therapy doctorate degree from Indiana University in August 2016.

She earned her post-professional Master of Science in occupational therapy degree from Boston University in 2007 and her Bachelor of Science in Allied Health/Occupational Therapy from The Ohio State University in 2000.

Read more about [Erika](#).



Chapter Chats

What's going on at your Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) Chapter? We'd love to hear from you! Whether it's a new initiative, event, or achievement, we're always excited to learn what our Chapters are up to — and to share those stories with the broader PTE community.

Feel free to drop us a note anytime at pte@aotf.org. Let's keep the inspiration and connection going across the country!



BETA IOTA - University of the Pacific
The University of Pacific in Sacramento just had its latest Induction Ceremony.



Kappa - University of North Dakota
Our chapter recently inducted 17 members into the organization! We are excited for the large number of members added and enjoyed our time at the induction ceremony.

It was one of the largest ceremonies we have had in while! We look forward to upcoming meetings and events with our new additions to our chapter.



Epsilon Mu - New York University
 NYU holds their latest Induction.



Delta Kappa - University of St. Augustine
 Pictured (left to right): Brianna Celedon, Hannah Lewis, Sarah Durning, Kinsey Cole, Jady Cavness, Alma Rodriguez, Cequoia Ali, Angelene Vu, Alexa Mapes, and Carmisha Payton.



Alpha Phi - UNLV
 The chapter held its latest induction ceremony.



Eta Beta - Marquette University
 Held their pie-a-professor fundraiser.



Alpha Delta - St. Catherine University
PTE Research Event, 4/29/25

PTE members put on a research event conducted by OT students and faculty! Researchers shared a brief teaser about their research with topics that included but weren't limited to: AOTA experience, OT in higher education, Trans Healthcare, Trauma-informed care, sleep context for children with mobility issues, therapeutic writing in OT, and information on the SMMART clinic at St. Kate's.

After the presentations, students were allowed to ask questions and converse with researchers. An iced coffee bar and Mochi donuts were provided!



Omega Epsilon - Western New England University
 The Omega Epsilon chapter at Western New England University in Springfield, MA inducted six new members this past year. While completing their Level I fieldwork in school-based settings, students observed that OT practitioners often face limited access to essential supplies - sometimes even purchasing materials out-of-pocket. In response, the chapter conducted a needs assessment and chose to focus their efforts on supporting occupational therapists within the Springfield Public Schools.

The students assembled and donated supply bags containing items such as

crayons, pencils, glue sticks, loop scissors, fidget toys, and other tools commonly used in therapeutic activities.



Beta Gamma - St. Louis University

The students of the Beta Gamma Chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon within the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at Saint Louis University collaborated to collect donations for the Physician Assistant Program's food and personal supply drive benefiting a campus-based food pantry that serves students. This initiative allowed the chapter to support their interprofessional colleagues in the Doisy College of Health Sciences along with the greater SLU community.

The Beta Gamma chapter's ongoing dedication to scholarship, service, and community will be further reflected in future events, including a Trivia Night in the fall!"

Alpha Psi - University of New England and Pi - Temple University

The Alpha Psi chapter of Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) at the University of New England recently hosted Dr. Reese Walter, who is a Certified Hand Therapist (CHT), for an insightful session on hand therapy.

The event brought together students and faculty for an informative learning experience, emphasizing the importance of occupation-based hand therapy in occupational therapy.

We were excited to invite members from the Temple University PTE chapter to join us, which helped expand the event's reach and strengthened connections within the PTE community. It was a fantastic opportunity to collaborate, share knowledge, and build a supportive network of future occupational therapy leaders.

**This can be a possibility as an entrant for [The PTE Grant For Excellence In Interchapter Collaboration](#)*

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