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Pi Theta Epsilon



National Honor Society of Occupational Therapy

A program of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation



Winter 2022 | Volume 32, Issue 2

Letter from the President



Dear Pi Theta Epsilon,

Happy 2022! Although it feels like we're currently reliving 2020 all over again, there is significantly more hope and science on our side this time around. I hope you all are taking the time to take care of yourselves and those around you to get us to this finish line.

This is my last letter to you all. As I sit here reflecting on the past four and a half years, I can't help but feel absolutely honored and privileged to have served in this capacity. I had the honor of meeting so many of you throughout the years, whether in-person pre-pandemic or virtually throughout this pandemic. I also had the privilege of meeting so many other leaders in the industry on- and off-line. Above all, I have had the opportunity to make an impact on future leaders, and for that, I am forever grateful.

I could list the various initiatives, failures and successes, and the growth of this organization during my tenure here, but most of you have followed my journey in supporting and advancing Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE) at a national scale over the years. Instead, I would like to speak to the importance of serving and advancing occupational therapy at large.

When I started my role in November 2017, PTE had 95 chapters across the country. At the writing of this letter, PTE proudly supports 127 chapters nationwide. With an estimated 10-20 members inducted annually per chapter, we have approximately 20,000+ active members nationwide at this time. As I near the end of my presidency, I can't help but feel defeated that despite the many years of continued growth, we had zero members interested in candidacy for National President at national office this year. While many of you may not yet meet the qualifications required, there are equally as many of you who do. There are many, many reasons why one may not be able to commit to the time and energy this role requires. However, I also believe there are many of you who are well-qualified for this role and may not have considered it out of fear or unknown benefits. You may be wondering what this role might offer you—I'd like to share.

From end-to-end project management skills to one-page documents, from voice of the consumer to stakeholder engagement, from podium-level presentations to classroom workshops, and from social media captions to board meeting quarterly reports—this role allowed me to gain numerous invaluable skills – hard and soft – to help me succeed in my career moving forward. I will be able to transfer these skills to many other industries should I choose, or I can continue further into organizational and/or national leadership opportunities.

As my parting words, I would like to encourage each and every one of you to challenge

yourselves. Take that leap of faith. Embrace new opportunities. Identify your strengths and weaknesses, and then use them to your advantage. Pursue leadership. Use your voice. Be the next driver of change, and then watch yourself grow.

Thank you for entrusting this role to me over the past 4.5 years. I hope I've served you well.

Sincerely,

Pooja A. Patel, DrOT, OTR/L, CDP

Pooja A. Patel, DrOT, OTR/L, CDP

National President of Pi Theta Epsilon

Occupational Therapist

Certified Dementia Practitioner



**Vote Now for PTE National Office President &
Secretary!
DEADLINE EXTENDED to - Monday, January 31
End of Business**

Voting has begun to elect a new PTE Executive Team President & Secretary. Additionally, there is an option if anyone is interested in being the PTE National Vice President or Treasurer for a one year post.

[Election Form for PTE National President & Secretary](#)

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**Don't Forget to Register For the OT.com Course,
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Pi Theta Epsilon

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Invites Lifetime Members to take the following course:
**Fun, Practical, Client-Centered Activities to Encourage
Social Emotional Development in Pediatric Practice**

Presented by: Nicole Quint, Dr.OT, OTR/L
This course is eligible for CEU credit.

**This course will be available anytime day and/or night at no cost to you from
January 28 – February 11, courtesy of Pi Theta Epsilon (PTE)**

Course Description:

This course emphasizes social emotional learning (SEL) to promote successful occupational participation and performance for children. Social emotional learning emphasizes the process of how children develop the ability to regulate emotions and prosocial behavior through thoughtful decision making processes.

Presenter:

Nicole Quint, Dr.OT, OTR/L has been practicing occupational therapy for over 14 years in both adult and pediatric practices. She currently serves as Assistant Professor at NOVA Southeastern University, teaching in both the Masters and Doctoral programs. She also provides pediatric therapy services in both the NOVA Southeastern University Outpatient Pediatric Clinic and at the University School, a private school on campus within their resource program. Dr. Quint worked at Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital for over six years in the adult and pediatric Day Rehabilitation program, aquatics, and outpatient pediatrics. Her interests are in sensory processing disorder, learning disabilities, and other "invisible" diagnoses that influence behavior, learning, and socialization, resilience in children and adults, executive function skills and occupation, and leadership within occupational therapy and healthcare. Dr. Quint is currently a PhD candidate in the Conflict Analysis and Resolution program at NOVA Southeastern University.

**To reserve your seat, please RSVP today to pte@aotf.org.
Full instructions on how to take the course
will be sent to you this week prior to the event.**

2021-2022 St. Catherine Challenge - FINAL MONTH!!!!



Raise Funds for OT Research: Create a School Team

[Join Now!](#)

We are in the last month of the St. Catherine's Challenge, all donation and checks need to be postmarked by **Monday, February 28th** here is the [SCC PowerPoint Presentation](#) for reminders, ideas and #AOTFSCC information. Please don't wait until 2/28/2022 to send in your donations. We would like to know how we are doing leading up to the deadline of Monday, February 28th

Leaderboard of the top five schools out of 63 Universities. Challenge your OT constituents & your school can be in the running for one of these positions

:

1. St. Catherine University - \$3,425.00
2. USC - \$2,550
3. Misericordia University - \$1,700.00
4. St. Louis University - \$1,479.00
5. University of Florida - \$1,359.32

Awards up for grabs:

1st place - President's Award

2nd place - Award of Excellence

3rd place - Award of Merit

MVP - Above & Beyond with high participation

Rush to the Top: Most successful 1st time participant

The St. Catherine's Challenge is a student led fundraising event where OT programs across the country compete to raise money for the AOTF Intervention Research Grant, a unique seed-funding opportunity for OT researchers to obtain funding for early-stage research studies. The IRG program has been a great success over the last 8 years and the St. Kate's Challenge has been instrumental in that success. Our 2021/22 goal is to have 65 schools participate in the competition and raise at least \$65,000. This would fully fund One (1) Intervention Research Grant (IRG) in 2022 and it would be a St. Catherine's Challenge record. Last year 50 PTE schools raised almost \$45,000 for occupational therapy research! This fully funded IRG for the 2021 cycle is a great demonstration of the OT community's support for research in areas of critical need to the profession. University of Pittsburgh won the challenge raising just over \$5,400.00. Washington University in St. Louis was a close second and had 100% program faculty participation. Third place went to New York University.

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AWARDS

The Martha J. Kirkland Endowed Scholarship

Awarded each year through the AOTF scholarships, PTE membership is required for the MJK scholarship for a student demonstrates leadership in education, practice, and research in OT.

The President's Award

PTE chapters who organize and implement outstanding scholarly activities are eligible to apply for this award. Deadline is every January.

The PTE Grant For Excellence In Interchapter Collaboration

PTE chapters who work together to increase knowledge, develop professional skills, and contribute to the advancement of the occupational therapy profession are encourage to apply for this award. Deadline is every January.

PTE University & College Updates

Want to share your PTE chapter's news? We are streamlining the process of sharing Pi Theta news! You can submit videos, pictures, or articles to be featured on social media, YouTube, or Scroll and Pen. [Submit your content here!](#)

Eastern Kentucky University



Pi Theta Epsilon (Alpha Zeta Chapter), an honor fraternity within the Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy at Eastern Kentucky University led by faculty advisor, Dr. Leah Simpkins, recently participated in The Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Program. This year the student organization was able to assemble 50 shoeboxes to be donated to children around the globe with assistance from donated items by students, faculty, and staff members of the same Department. The boxes contain items for spreading joy and happiness (i.e. toys and notebooks) and also items that a child may need (i.e. toothbrushes and hairbrushes). The Pi Theta Epsilon organization has started making this a yearly event for one of their planned Christmas philanthropies.

St. Ambrose University in Davenport, IA



St. Ambrose University's Pi Theta Epsilon chapter focused on gaining experience with community organizations in the Quad Cities area during the Fall 2021 semester in order to gather insight on how occupational therapy could play a role within the community. SAU's chapter was able to interact with members and directors of three unique organizations and programs. On October 22nd, the chapter toured and interacted with the members and director of Inspire Continuing Care, a daytime community center for post-high school young adults with unique qualifications to work on social and emotional wellness as well as personal safety and care. On November 15th, SAU's chapter organized for the Board President of National Alliance on Mental

Illness for the Quad Cities to speak to the occupational therapy doctorate students about what NAMI is and how occupational therapists can play a role within the organization. To end the semester, on December 9th, the members of the SAU PTE chapter toured and interacted with the members and one of the owners of Empower House, a community clubhouse for those who have experienced a brain injury. We are glad to have been able to increase our learning on how occupational therapists can play a role within the community by making connections with these three wonderful organizations in the Quad Cities area."

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