



# ACADEMY ROUNDUP

The Official Newsletter for the APTA Academy of Education

A source of news, announcements, and upcoming events for physical therapy educators.

## Newsletter Highlights

### Announcements:

- CESIG Announces Winners of Clinical Educator Scholarships - *Congratulations!*
- PTA Education Resource Taskforce Applications  
**Open Until Tuesday, Sept 30**
- Get To Know the APTA National Leader Nominees
- **Order Your Academy Merch for ELC by Sept 21**
- Call for ELC Chair
- Collaborative for PT Education Volunteers Needed!
  - **Deadline is Today!**
- Join the Academy's Leadership!
- Call for Research Grant Proposals and Award Nominations Now Open!
- PTA Honor Society Nominations Open
- **A Month Away from ELC 2025!**
  - Welcome Video:  
*What Do You Gain From Attending ELC?*
  - Volunteers Needed!
  - Call for Academy Booth Volunteers!
  - SOE SIG | Education Research Consulting Session at ELC
- Webinars
  - Higher Education Leaders Town Hall
    - Town Hall 1 - Monday, Sept 22
    - Town Hall 2 - Friday, Sept 26
  - **New!** IPEP Seminar Series - Part 3 of 4: Interprofessional Collaborative Practice (IPE in the Clinic)
- Committee Spotlight

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Congratulations to the Winners of Clinical Educator Scholarships

Thanks to the Education Impact Initiative, the CE SIG is pleased to announce the winners of several clinical educator scholarships:



### Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program Scholarship:

- Alaina Newman
- Linsey Hamilton
- Allison Kellish

### ELC 2025 Scholarship:

- Melissa Starr
- Kelly Meyers
- Jamie Defraties
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### ELC 2025 Pre-Conference Scholarship:

- Maurine Martin
- Renee Huth
- Heather Porter

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## Physical Therapist Assistant Education Resource Taskforce

The APTA Academy of Education, in collaboration with the Physical Therapist Assistant Educator Special Interest Group, is developing a comprehensive online resource to support physical therapist assistant (PTA) educators. This resource will provide guidance for both new and established programs in the areas of program development, program assessment, curricular assessment, and teaching/learning resources and best practices.

### Project Overview

The first phase of this initiative is the development phase. The Taskforce will be charged with:

- Outlining the structure, content, and scope of the resource.
- Assessing the current needs of PTA educators.
- Determining the platform where the resource will be housed and strategies for dissemination.
- Developing budgets and access guidelines.
- Collaborating with physical therapy community partners to integrate existing resources.

**The Taskforce will present a detailed plan to the Academy of Education Board**

of Directors by the end of 2026.

## Volunteer Opportunities

We are seeking individuals for the following roles:

- **Chair:** A current PTA educator with a demonstrated record of leadership in PTA education.
- **Taskforce Members (4):** PTA educators, with priority for:
  - At least one currently serving as a DCE/ACCE.
  - At least one with experience in distance or hybrid education.
  - DPT Educator: Preferably with prior experience in PTA education or significant collaboration with PTA programs.

[Take Initiative and Apply!](#)

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## Get To Know the: APTA National Leader Nominees

The Academy applauds its members who are on the slate for their desire to serve APTA at the national level:

- **Secretary:**
  - Daniel Dale
- **Vice Speaker:**
  - Robin Dole
- **Directors:**
  - Lori Bordenave
  - Lisa VanHoose
- **Nominating Committee Members:**
  - Sharon Dunn
  - Tarang Jain
  - Arvie Vitente



[View Nominees](#)

Learn more about the APTA National Leaders Nominees.

**Election begins Monday, October 20.**

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## Order your Academy Merch Before ELC!



The online store is open now through Sunday, September 21. Shop for short and long-sleeved tees, polos, pull overs, backpacks, and more.

[Start Shopping!](#)



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## Call for ELC Chair



The Education Leadership Conference (ELC) Committee is seeking a volunteer chair from the Academy of Education to serve a three-year term beginning **Thursday, January 1, 2026**.

Apply and submit your CV and statement of interest by **Friday, October 31**. The ELC chairs will conduct interviews with applicants in December.

Apply

Please direct any questions about the position to:  
[aoe-execdir@aptaeducation.org](mailto:aoe-execdir@aptaeducation.org)

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## Collaborative for PT Education Volunteers Needed!

The Collaborative for Physical Therapy Education, a member engagement group of APTA, has developed six subcommunities within the [APTA Community](#) to encourage focused discussion and engagement on each of the six pillars from [A Vision for Excellence in Physical Therapy Education](#) and their associated guiding principles.

As a participating organization of the collaborative that has an interest in the pillars below, the Academy of Education has been invited to appoint 1-2 members of our organization to participate in each of these focused discussion groups:



- Accessibility of Education
- Collaboration and Networks
- Competency-Based Education
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Education Research and Data Management
- Infrastructure, Capacity, and Faculty Development



**Deadline to apply is Today, September 17**

Take Initiative and Volunteer

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## Join the Academy's Leadership!



Academy of Education Leadership Nominations are open now through Saturday, November 1! If you or someone you know would make a great leader, learn more and nominate!

**All terms are for three years and begin July 1, 2026.**

[Learn More](#)

[Nominate A Leader](#)



## Call for Research Grant Proposals

**Deadline: Tuesday, October 21**

Research grants are available to assist APTA Academy of Education members in conducting research that investigates a question of importance to the advancement of education in physical therapy. In addition to research related to physical therapy education (DPT, PTA), questions related to the education of patients/clients, licensed PTs/PTAs or PT/PTA students will also be considered.

### Research Grant

These grants continue to provide proposers potential financial resources of up to \$25,000 for larger projects with a with an experienced research team. Proposals for the larger grants continue to require that the proposal demonstrate that the project can be completed within one year and that the research team has the requisite experience and expertise to achieve success.

### Small Seed Grant

These small grants are intended to support the work of new and aspiring scholars pursuing financial resources of up to \$10,000 to support smaller or pilot projects. These small grants can also be used to provide financial resources for planned larger projects that need to gather pilot data. In either case, grant applicants need to demonstrate how the project is investigating a question of importance to the advancement of education in physical therapy and situate the proposal within a larger research objective.

[Learn More and Apply](#)



## Call for Award Nominations

**Deadline: Wednesday, October 15**

The Awards Committee is pleased to announce the call for nominations for APTA Academy of Education Awards. Members are urged to consider these opportunities for themselves and for their colleagues.

### **Adopt-A-Doc Scholarship Award**

Reflects the Academy's commitment to increase the number of doctoral prepared faculty teaching in PT and PTA education programs.

### **Award for Leadership in Education**

Is the highest honor given by the Academy and recognizes an individual who is widely recognized as a leader in physical therapy education.

### **Polly Cerasoli Lectureship Award**

Acknowledges an individual who exemplifies the passion and commitment to the advancement of physical therapy education modeled by Dr. Polly Cerasoli.

### **Distinguished Educator in Physical Therapist Education Award**

Honors an individual who exemplifies excellence in academic or clinical teaching.

### **Distinguished Educator in Physical Therapist Assistant Education Award**

Honors an individual who exemplifies excellence in academic or clinical teaching.

### **Distinguished Mentor in Residency/Fellowship Education Award**

Recognizes excellence in Residency/Fellowship mentoring.

### **Education Professional Service Award**

Recognizes significant service to the APTA Academy of Education

### **Outstanding Clinical Instructor Award**

Recognizes an outstanding clinical instructor who demonstrates exceptional skills in teaching, communication, interpersonal relationships, professional competence, mentoring, modeling, and professionalism.

### **Outstanding Site Coordinator for Clinical Education Award**

Recognizes an outstanding Site Coordinator for Clinical Education (SCCE) who consistently demonstrate exceptional skills in the supervision and education of Clinical Instructors through mentoring as well as serving as a role model for Clinical Education.

### **President's Award**

Honors an individual who has provided exemplary service or noteworthy contributions in advancing the vision, mission or goals of the APTA Academy of Education.

*Individuals who are current members of the Academy of Physical Therapy Education Board of Directors, the APTA Board of Directors, or APTA Staff are not eligible for these awards and may not participate in the nomination process.*

[Learn More and Apply](#)

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## **PTA Honor Society Nominations Open**

### **Deadline: Wednesday, October 1**

The Phi Tau Alpha Honor Society recognizes physical therapist assistant students who have not only





demonstrated high academic standards, but have embodied the core values of the physical therapy profession. Students meeting the requirements outlined below should contact their program faculty to determine the next steps for applying for possible induction into the honor society.

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

**Nominations** to the honor society are only open to students in programs in which at least one member of the faculty is a current member of the Academy of Education.

Applicants must complete and provide proof of ALL items on **Applicant Checklist**, including:

- GPA - 3.5 minimum for all applicants (This GPA calculation is limited to PTA coursework ONLY)
- **Recommendation Form:**
- Students must have two Recommendation Forms submitted to be considered for the PTA Honor Society. To be considered for the Honor Society, all ratings should be in the "Exemplary" or "Superior" categories. All recommendation forms must be from a PTA Program Stakeholder, including clinical or academic stakeholders. Examples include:
  - Clinical Instructor during a full-time clinical experience
  - Clinical partner who held primary responsibility for assessing the student applicant
  - Full time or part time faculty
  - Adjunct instructor
  - Lab assistant or adjunct clinical proctor
  - PTA club advisor
  - PTA program Advisory Committee Member

[Learn More and Nominate](#)

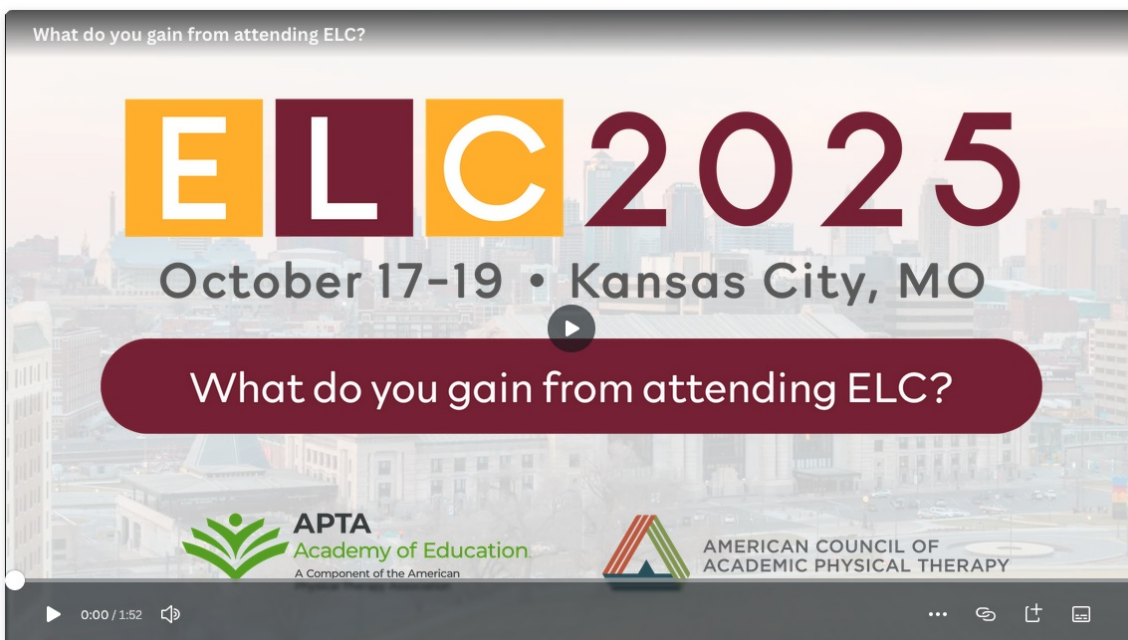
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# ELC 2025

October 17-19 • Kansas City, MO

**The countdown for ELC begins!** Just a month away and we're so excited to welcome you to one of the most anticipated gatherings in education leadership. Whether this will be your very first **ELC** or you've joined us many times before, we know there's always a mix of excitement and questions as the conference draws near.

Please enjoy this short welcome video from Academy of Education *President Vicki LaFay* and ACAPT President *Kimberly Varnado*, and look for more videos as ELC approaches to help maximize your ELC experience!



[Register](#)

## Call For Volunteers for ELC!



As we prepare for the upcoming ELC 2025, we are reaching out to our community for volunteers to assist throughout the conference. Your support is crucial in ensuring a smooth and successful event.

We are seeking volunteers to help with various tasks, including registration and moderating Platform and MicroLearn sessions. If you are interested and available to contribute, please sign up using this Google Sheet: [ELC VOLUNTEER SIGN UP](#). Your participation as a volunteer is greatly appreciated. Closer to the conference dates, we will reach out to confirm your availability and provide further details regarding your volunteer assignment.



Thank you in advance for supporting ELC 2025. Should you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact Mary Beth Holmes [mbholmes@bu.edu](mailto:mbholmes@bu.edu)

[Volunteer!](#)

Don't miss your chance to save! The **early bird deadline** for the 2025 Physical Therapy Education Leadership Conference (ELC) is fast approaching.

[Register](#)

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## Call for Academy Booth Volunteers

Volunteering at the booth is a fun, easy way to provide service to the Academy as you get to know fellow attendees who stop by the booth. You don't have to be an Academy "expert", as we'll provide answers to FAQs. Consider signing up with a colleague or PT/PTA school classmate - it's a great way to find an hour for catching up during the busy ELC schedule.

[Exhibit Booth Sign Up](#)

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## Education Research Consulting Session at ELC 2025

The Scholarship of Education (SoE) SIG is hosting another education research consulting session at ELC on Friday October 17 during the lunch break at ELC in Kansas City.

This is a short term mentoring session. We will have consultants with experience in a variety of areas of educational research and you can use this time to meet with them and discuss your ideas, questions etc. The room will be set up in round tables and the consultants will have signs indicating areas of expertise.

**We are currently seeking both consultants and participants.**



You do not have to be an "expert" in your field, you simply need to have SOME experience with conducting and presenting/ publishing educational research.

[Consultant Sign Up](#)



For researchers looking for guidance, advice, or short term mentoring.

[Researcher Sign Up](#)



## Higher Education Leaders Town Hall



The Academy of Education is hosting two Town Halls to explore how the Academy can create community and help foster career advancement for faculty members who are serving in, or who desire to move into, more advanced leadership roles within academia from department chair through president.

These webinars are opportunities to better understand your thoughts and share ideas around how the Academy can support this effort and how you can be involved going forward.

### Town Hall 1

For Department Chairs and More Senior Roles  
Monday | September 22 | 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM ET

[Register](#)

### Town Hall 2

For Program Directors Interested in **Future** Senior Roles  
Friday | September 26 | 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM ET

[Register](#)

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## IPEP Seminar Series – Part 3 of 4: Interprofessional Collaborative Practice (IPE in the Clinic)



**Join Us | Wednesday, October 8 | 7 PM -8 PM ET**

### Course Description:

Interprofessional practice is important for students to learn how to work together to provide comprehensive patient-centered care. Collaborative team-based education has been shown to improve patient outcomes:

- Develop safety awareness and communication skills.

- Strengthen teamwork.
- Improve knowledge of other professions.
- Prepare students for practice in the real world.
- The panelists are from two interprofessional clinics, Center for Life Skills through Ithaca College which serves people who had a stroke and Creighton Pediatrics from Creighton University which serves children. Through interactive discussion, participants will learn how an interprofessional clinical setting and a faculty based pediatric practice provides students with the skills needed to practice with other professions.

### **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the benefits of interprofessional practice as they relate to patient centered care.
2. Identify the roles and contributions of different health professionals within the Center for Life Skills and Creighton University's Pediatric Clinic.
3. Explain how student engagement in interprofessional practice prepares them for real world practice.
4. Reflect on institutional strategies to promote interprofessional collaboration in their own setting.

[Register](#)

## COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

### Professional Development Committee



#### **What are the duties and responsibilities of the committee?**

The Professional Development Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Academy Board on strategic or tactical initiatives that will facilitate stronger professional development opportunities for members. The

committee gathers information from members to inform the effectiveness of existing professional development opportunities, assesses the needs of Academy members, generates ideas for new educational opportunities, identifies mechanisms to collaborate with other Academy groups, and communicates with other stakeholders about collaborative professional development.

### What is something exciting happening within your committee?

The committee is currently beginning processes to update the Academy website Resources for Educators and is exploring mechanisms to enhance the process used for recruiting and selecting Pre-Conference workshops for Education Leadership Conference.

### How does your committee impact the field of physical therapy education?

The Professional Development Committee, along with other Academy committees and task forces, is instrumental in providing high quality educational programming for all physical therapy educators. In doing so, the Committee facilitates professional growth and development of educators in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and service, with the ultimate goal of positively impacting the quality of education received by our students.

### Committee Members:

#### Kirsten Potter, PT, DPT MS | Chair

Robin Baker, PT, DPT

Catherine Bilyeu, PT, DPT, PhD

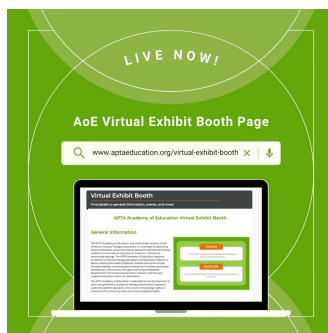
Jon Kenonyer, PTA, MBA

Elise Ruckert PT, DPT, EdD

Christina Wisdom, PT, DPT EdD

The Academy of Education Thanks You!

## QUICK CLICKS



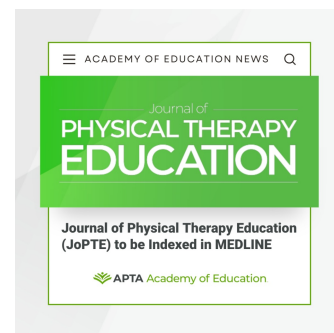
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