



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:

- **Academy Election Results**
- Winners of the CE SIG CCIP Scholarship
- **PTA Honor Society Applications Due June 1**
- DPT Loans Capped at 100k
- APTA Capitol Hill Day Update
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - ELC 2026
 - **ELC CESIG Scholarship Applications due by May 21!**
 - ELC PTA Educators SIG Scholarships, deadline June 30
 - Physical Therapy Faculty Development Workshop (PTFDW) | Waitlist Form
 - CSM 2027
 - Call for Abstracts deadline July 15
 - GAMER 2027 | Save the Date
- Volunteer for the Academy, **extended until May 8**
- Foundation for PT Research Education Grant Applications Open
- Emerging Leader Nominations
- Simulation Networking Community Monthly Chats | May 7 | 12PM EDT
- Webinar
 - RFESIG Journal Club | Sept 8 | 8PM
- SIG Spotlight
 - Scholarship of Education SIG (SoESIG)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 Academy Elections Results *A Special Welcome to Our New Leaders!*

NEWLY ELECTED LEADERS



**Marisa
Birkmeier**

**President
Elect**



**Carrie
Clark
Hawkins**

Secretary



**Laurie
Neely**

**Nominating
Committee
Member**



**Rebecca
Leugers**

**Academic
Faculty SIG
Chair**



**Julie
Gruden**

**Clinical
Education SIG
Clinical Chair**



**Tricia
Prokop**

**Scholarship of
Education SIG
Chair**

NEWLY ELECTED SIG LEADERS



Megan Kim

Academic
Faculty SIG
Engagement
Secretary



Nicole Clark

Academic
Faculty SIG
Nominating
Committee
Member



Cameron Bassett

Anatomy
Educators
SIG Vice
Chair



Eryn Milian

Anatomy
Educators SIG
Membership
Secretary



Rachel Gleason

Anatomy
Educators SIG
Nominating
Committee
Member



Lori Hochman

Clinical
Education SIG
Recording
Secretary



Lora Dingledine

Clinical
Education SIG
Nominating
Committee
Member



Mindy Oxenford

Interprofessional
Education &
Practice SIG
Vice Chair



Cheryl Babin

Interprofessional
Education and
Practice SIG
Communications
Chair



Soren Long Grieve

Interprofessional
Education and
Practice SIG
Nominating
Committee
Member



Angie Lippiello

PTA Educators
SIG Recording
Secretary



Carolyn Shisler

PTA Educators
SIG Nominating
Committee
Member



David Nolan

Residency/
Fellowship SIG
Vice Chair



Victoria Wilson Harris

Residency/
Fellowship SIG
Nominating
Committee
Member

Winners of the CE SIG 2026 CCIP Scholarship



Congratulations to the winners of the Clinical Education SIG's 2026 Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program Scholarship.

This year, the scholarship has been awarded to:

- **Danielle Bennett, PT, DPT SCCE at FixtPT Physical Therapy and Wellness**
- **Michele Collins, PT, DPT. DCE at Cleveland State University**
- **Lora Dingledine, PT, DPT. DCE at University of Indianapolis, Krannert School of Physical Therapy**

Their outstanding contributions and dedication to clinical education have truly made a positive impact. This scholarship recognizes their commitment to excellence and advancing the quality of clinical instruction in our field.

PTA Honor Society Applications Open Until June 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!

**U.S. Department of Education Caps DPT
Student Loans at \$100,000**



On May 1, the U.S. Department of Education [finalized regulations](#) that will place new caps on federal student loans for postbaccalaureate degrees. The rule will take effect July 1, 2026.

Despite coordinated advocacy efforts among the APTA, the APTA Academy of Education and the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy, [the finalized rule](#) maintains the department's arbitrary and limited definition of a "professional degree" for the purposes of limiting access to the highest amount of federal student loans, \$50,000 per year and \$200,000 in total, to programs including pharmacy, dentistry, chiropractic, medicine, optometry, osteopathic medicine, podiatry, and clinical psychology.

All other degree programs, including DPT degree programs, will be deemed "graduate degrees" with access for students limited to \$20,500 per year or \$100,000 in total.

Litigation against the Department of Education is expected to be filed in the near future by various groups challenging the final rule.

In addition, there are currently various [APTA-supported bills](#) in the U. S. Congress to address the impact of the rule: H.R. 6574 (Rep. Kennedy), H.R. 6677/S. 4039 (Rep. Torres/Sen. Alsobrooks), and H.R. 6718 (Rep. Lawler). These bills would ensure that professional degrees such as the DPT would be classified and/or would have access to the professional degree loan caps. In doing so, they would protect prospective students' ability to pursue careers in physical therapy and other essential health care professions. Members can contact their members of Congress about these APTA-supported bills via the APTA Action Center.

[Take Action Now!](#)

APTA Capitol Hill Day Update



[Read Advocacy Update](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Physical Therapy Faculty Development Workshop 1/2 Day DCE/ACCE Workshop Spots Available!

**In-person | Chicago, IL | August 1
12:30pm - 5:00pm**

Whether you're an experienced DCE seeking to refine your approach or new to the position and eager to learn, the DCE/ACCE workshop offers valuable guidance and resources to support your journey. We'll delve into the unique responsibilities and challenges faced by DCEs, providing insights and strategies to enhance effectiveness in this vital role. *Elevate* your impact, *empower* your students, and *unlock* the full potential of your role as a Director of Clinical Education.

2026

JULY / AUGUST

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Register Today!

In-person

July 30 - August 1 | Chicago, IL



Faculty Facilitators and Invited Speakers:

- Dawn S. Brown, PT, DPT, EdD, OCS, Northwestern University
- Christie Cohoon, PT, DPT, OCS, St. Louis Community College – Forest Park
- Myles Quiben, PT, DPT, PhD, MS, University of North Texas Health Science Center
- Kirsten Potter, PT, DPT, Tufts University
- Tricia Prokop, PT, EdD, CSCS, Bowling Green State University
- Nikki Sleddens, PT, ABD, CEEAA, University of Nebraska Medical Center
- Angela Wallace, PTA, McHenry County College

SOLD OUT



Join the waitlist!

Waiting List Sign Up



October 16-18 | Marriott Marquis | Washington, D.C.

[Visit ELC Website](#)

CE SIG ELC 2026 Scholarship Application



The Clinical Education Special Interest Group (CESIG) of the Academy of Education (AoE) is pleased to announce that the ELC 2026 Scholarship application is now officially open! As part of the Academy's Education Impact Initiative (EI2), this award recognizes APTA members for their outstanding contributions to clinical education and supports continued professional development through educational opportunities and networking.

This year, we are offering three scholarships valued at \$1,000 each. The award is designed to help cover expenses related to registration, travel, lodging, and meals for ELC 2026. If one of the recipients is not currently an AoE member, a portion of their scholarship will be applied toward their Academy membership, ensuring they can fully participate in all the benefits AoE has to offer.

Please use the link below to access the ELC 2026 Scholarship Application and fill out the form. Don't miss this chance to advance your professional journey and become more involved in our vibrant community!

The application will close on May 21, 2026.

[Fill Out Application](#)

CE SIG ELC 2026 Pre-conference Scholarship Application



The Clinical Education Special Interest Group (CESIG) of the Academy of Education (AoE) is once again pleased to announce that the ELC 2026 pre-conference course scholarship application is now officially open!

As part of the Academy's Education Impact Initiative (EI2), this award aims to support our members professional development through educational opportunities and networking.

This year, we are offering three scholarships valued at \$500 each. The award is designed to help cover a pre-conference course registration and additional associated expenses such as travel, lodging, and meals for ELC 2026.

Please use the link below to access the ELC 2026 pre-conference course scholarship application and fill out the form. Don't miss this chance to advance your professional journey.

The application will close on May 21, 2026.

[Fill Out Application](#)

PTA Educators SIG ELC Scholarships



The Academy of Education PTA Educators SIG is offering a limited number of scholarships to support attendance at the Education Leadership Conference (ELC) on October 16-18, 2026, in Washington, DC.

Scholarships of \$500 or more are available for PTA educators and clinical instructors who are actively involved in PTA education and committed to leadership and professional growth. First-time attendees are strongly encouraged to apply (previous attendees will also be considered).

Application deadline: June 30, 2026

Notifications sent by: August 1, 2026

[Learn More and Apply](#)

CSM 2027



Showcase your expertise at APTA CSM, the leading conference in physical therapy, held **February 4-6, 2027, in Philadelphia, PA.**



CSM Platform and Poster Abstracts Submission Portal Closes July 15

[Learn More](#)

[Submit An Abstract](#)

GAMER 2027 | Save The Date!

GAMER 2027

Grantwriting and Mentorship in Education Research

January 21-23, 2027

(Travel days are January 20 and 24, 2027)

Charleston, South Carolina

Applications open July 1, 2026, and close August 15, 2026

We bring together a nationally recognized multidisciplinary group of mentors and consultants as faculty, including representatives from potential funding sources to support participants work. The workshop provides guidance in developing robust, clear and theoretically grounded research questions, grant proposals and career research agendas. The workshop will also facilitate inter-professional, and intra- and inter-institutional collaborative research networks and projects for education researchers in *Audiology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology*.

Our wonderful sponsors!



Please contact Rick Segal at segal@muscul.edu if you have any questions

www.gamereducationresearch.com

Thanks for your great support of GAMER 2026 from the mentees and mentors!



PT Education Grant Applications Now Open



Attention education researchers! Applications are now open for the PT Education Research Grant from the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research. We are sponsoring this funding

mechanism to support education research related to methods for promoting the uptake of research findings into practice by designing educational interventions to address gaps between physical therapy research evidence and physical therapy and physical therapist assistant practices. Areas of study must align with at least one priority area of the [APTA 2023 Research Agenda](#) and applicants must be licensed PTs or PTAs and members of the APTA Academy of Education.

Guidelines and application instructions for this grant can be found on the [Foundation's website](#). Please read the guidelines carefully for complete information on the research area and eligibility requirements for this grant. Applications can be found on ProposalCentral.

If you are interested in applying for this grant, or any of the available 11, \$40,000 research grants, please [subscribe](#) to the Foundation's research grant mailing list to receive updates, FAQs, and timely reminders.

The deadline submission for all research grant applications is July 31 at 4:59pm EDT.

[Learn More & Apply](#)

Emerging Leader Award



This recognition honors one emerging leader—either a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant—from each APTA component who has demonstrated exceptional service, leadership, and contributions early in their career. The selected individual will have significantly advanced the mission and vision of the American Physical Therapy Association, their component, and the physical therapy profession as a whole.

[Learn More](#)[Submit Nomination](#)

Volunteer for the Academy!

Contribute to the Academy of Education by becoming a volunteer! The following position terms that begin on July 1, 2026 are now available.



- **Webinar Committee**
- **Finance Committee**

For more information on the positions, please review the Policies & Procedures manual or email volunteerscoordinator@aptaeducation.org.

[Volunteer!](#)

Simulation Networking Community Monthly Chats

Join us for SimChats! This monthly meeting is a dedicated space for AoE members with interest in simulation to connect, exchange ideas, and collaborate on best practices. Each session highlights current topics in simulation-based education, offers opportunities for members to share experiences or challenges, and fosters meaningful discussion across diverse roles and settings. Whether you are new to simulation or a seasoned expert, this gathering provides a supportive environment to learn, network, and strengthen our collective impact on healthcare education and patient outcomes.

We will discuss tools for building simulation scenarios and share a new scenario builder that the Simulation Networking Community has been working on.

We will also have an open forum to discuss your questions and ideas related to simulation-based learning.

Please join SimChats at **SimChats Zoom** :
Meeting ID: 947 3412 5901 Passcode: 751877

SimChats Zoom

Upcoming Meeting:

- **Thursday, May 7, Noon EDT**



Save The Date



Sep 8 | [RFE SIG Journal Club](#)
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM EDT

SIG SPOTLIGHT

Scholarship of Education SIG (SoESIG)

The Scholarship of Education Special Interest Group of the APT Academy of Education of the American Physical Therapy Association hereinafter referred to as the Scholarship of Education SIG (SoESIG).

Purpose:

The Scholarship of Education Special Interest Group of the APT Academy of Education provides a forum where both academic and clinical educators will promote and enhance the quality of educational scholarship in physical therapist education. The SIG seeks to foster the development of educational researchers and facilitate collaboration and translation of research to educational practice.

Objectives:

- Promote educational scholarship in physical therapy.
- Provide role modeling, mentorship and support for researchers interested in educational research.
- Foster networking and collaboration among educational researchers.
- Assist in the exploration of best practices in physical therapy education and facilitate the translation of these findings into practice.

Leadership:

Chair: [Sarah Gilliland, PT, DPT, PhD](#)

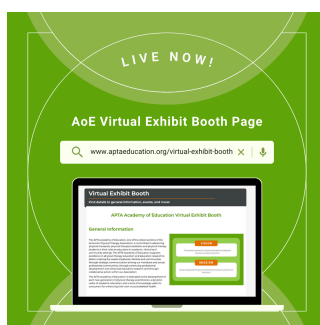
Chair Elect/Vice Chair: [Tricia Rogers Prokop, PT, MSPT, EdD](#)

Secretary: [Cara Felter, PT, PhD, DPT, MPH](#)

Nominating Committee Chair: [Kelly B Reynolds, PT, DPT, NCS, PhD](#)

Nominating Committee: [Liana Wooten, PT, DPT, PhD](#)

QUICK CLICKS



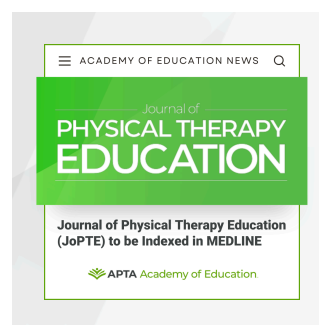
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