

 **APTA** Academy of Education.

# ANNUAL 20 REPORT 25



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# ABOUT

The APTA Academy of Education, celebrating over 80 years of serving as a catalyst for exemplary contemporary academic physical therapy education, is dedicated to the development of each new generation of physical therapy practitioners, a dynamic cadre of academic educators, and is the premier resource of best practice knowledge useful to consumers for enhancing their own musculoskeletal health and wellness.

## **Mission**

Advance physical therapists and physical therapist assistants as educators.

## **Vision**

The premier resource for physical therapist and physical therapist assistant educators.

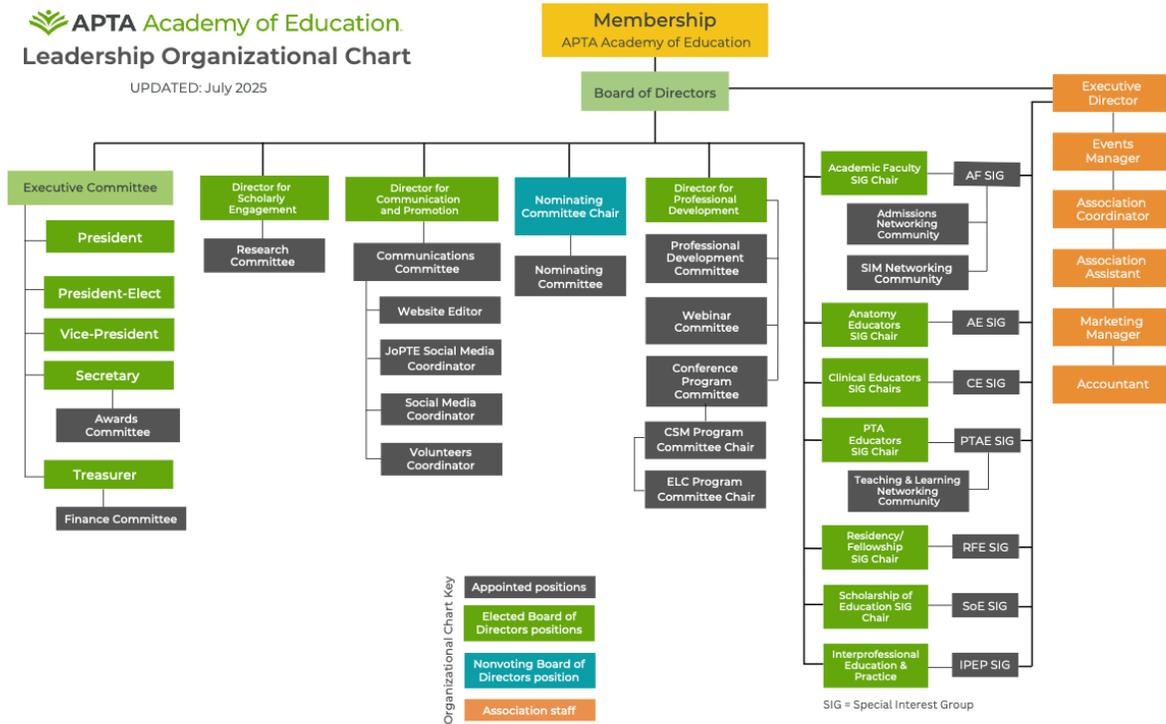
# STRATEGIC GOALS 2025-2027

 <p><b>ADVANCE</b></p>	<p><b>(1) Advance:</b> Inspiring physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in their roles as educators.</p>
 <p><b>CONNECT</b></p>	<p><b>(2) Connect:</b> Leading physical therapy education through organizational collaboration and member engagement.</p>
 <p><b>ELEVATE</b></p>	<p><b>(3) Elevate:</b> Elevating the profession by furthering physical therapy educational research.</p>
 <p><b>LEAD</b></p>	<p><b>(4) Lead:</b> Exhibiting strong leadership to advance the Academy.</p>

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

 **APTA Academy of Education.**  
**Leadership Organizational Chart**

UPDATED: July 2025



# ACADEMY LEADERSHIP

**Thank you to our leaders whose terms of service concluded in 2025:**

- Chalee R. Engelhard, PT, EdD, MBA | President
- Christine McCallum, PT, PhD | Vice President
- Steven Lesh, PT, PhD | Director of Professional Development
- Holly Clynch, PT, DPT, MA | Director of Communications and Promotion
- Angela N. Henning, PT, MSPT | Clinical Education SIG Clinical Co-Chair
- Melissa Tolbert, PT, DPT, ATC | Anatomy Educators SIG Nominating Committee
- Julie Gruden, PT, MPT, DPT | Clinical Education SIG Membership Secretary
- Beverly Labosky, PTA | Physical Therapist Assistant Educators SIG Nominating Committee Member
- Lisa Stejskal, PTA, MEd | Physical Therapist Assistant Educators SIG Liaison
- Caitlyn Lang PT, DPT | Residency/Fellowship Education SIG Nominating Committee Member
- Kelly Reynolds, PT, DPT, PhD | Scholarship of Education SIG Nominating Committee Chair
- Mari Knettle, PT, DPT, EdD | Awards Committee Chair
- Terry Messmer, PT, DPT | Awards Committee Member
- Shaun Varrecchia, PT, DPT | Finance Committee Member
- Christine McCallum, PT, PHD | Research Committee Liaison
- Diana Veneri, PT, EdD | Research Committee Member
- Sean Gallivan, PT, PhD | Research Committee Member
- Holly Clynch PT, DPT, MA | Communications Committee Chair
- Michael R. Brown, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS, FAAOMPT | Social Media Coordinator
- Marisa Birkmeier, PT | JoPTE Social Media Coordinator
- Deanna Dye PT, PhD | Web Site Editor
- Dana Dichiara, PT | Webinar Committee Member
- Julie Pfeiffer PT, DPT, MS | Webinar Committee Member
- Minerva Gatling, PT, DPT | Webinar Committee Member
- Steven Lesh, PT, PhD | Professional Development Committee Chair
- Cindy Elliott, PTA | Professional Development Committee Member
- Scott Euype, PT, DPT, MHS, OCS | CSM Committee Co-Chair
- Danille Parker, PT, DPT | ELC Committee Co-Chair
- Mary Beth Holmes PT, DPT | ELC Committee Co-Chair
- Steven Lesh PT, PhD | CSM Committee Board Liaison

- Steven Lesh PT, PhD | ELC Committee Board Liaison
- Chalee Engelhard, PT, EdD, MBA | Chief Delegate
- Janet Konecne, PT, DPT | 2nd Delegate
- Rupal Patel, PT, PhD | Federal Affairs Liaison
- Lisa Stejskal, PTA | APTA PTA Council Representative
- Jennifer Blanchette, PT, DPT | APTA's Education Leadership Institute Fellowship Work Group

**Thank you to our leaders serving the July 2025-June 2026 term:**

- Executive Committee
  - Vicki La Fay, PT, DPT, PhD | President
  - Kimeran Evans, PT, DPT, PhD | Vice President
  - Erin Faraclas PT, DPT, PhD | Treasurer
  - Carrie Clark Hawkins, PT, DPT, PhD | Secretary
- Directors
  - Kirsten Potter, PT, DPT, MS | Director of Professional Development
  - Arvie Vitente, PT, DPT, MPH, PhD | Director of Communications and Promotion
  - Michael Buck, PT, MSPT, ATC, PhD | Director for Scholarly Engagement
- Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
  - Academy Faculty
    - Derek Liuzzo PT, DPT, PhD | Academic Faculty SIG Chair
    - Jamie Dehan, PT, PhD, DPT, MS | Academic Faculty SIG Vice-Chair
    - Heather Green, PT, DPT | Academic Faculty SIG Secretary
    - Stephanie Eton, PT, DPT, GCS | Academic Faculty SIG Nominating Committee Chair
    - Minerva Gatling, PT, DPT | Nominating Committee
  - Anatomy Educators
    - Will Conrad, PT, DPT, EdD, MS | Anatomy Educators SIG Chair
    - Alison Lynn McKenzie, PT, DPT, PhD | Anatomy Educators SIG Vice Chair
    - Eryn Milian, PhD, DPT, PhD | Anatomy Educators SIG Membership Secretary

- Jason (Jay) Ciccotelli, PT, DPT, PhD | Anatomy Educators SIG Recording Secretary
- Melissa Cencetti, PT, DPT, EdD | Anatomy Educators SIG Nominating Committee Chair
- Ashley Simons, PT, DPT, PhD | Nominating Committee
- Marsha Rutland, PT, ScD, OCS | Anatomy Educators SIG Program Committee Chair
- Clinical Education
  - Julie Gruden, PT, DPT | Clinical Education SIG Clinical Co-Chair
  - Elsa Drevyn, PT, DPT | Clinical Education SIG Academic Co-Chair
  - Ryan Pontiff, PT, DPT, PhD | Clinical Education SIG Membership Secretary
  - KeithAnn Halle, PT, DPT | Clinical Education SIG Recording Secretary
  - Julie Lombardi, PT, DPT | Clinical Education SIG Nominating Committee Chair
  - Derrick Campbell, PT, DPT, ScD | Clinical Education SIG Nominating Committee
  - Amanda Piccoli, PT | Clinical Education SIG Nominating Committee
- Interprofessional Education and Practice
  - Kimberly Beran-Shepler, PT, DPT | Interprofessional Education and Practice SIG Chair
  - Myla Quiben, PT, DPT, MS, PhD | Interprofessional Education and Practice SIG Vice Chair
  - Laura Gras, PT, DPT, DSc | Interprofessional Education and Practice SIG Secretary
  - Sally McCormack Tutt, PT, DPT, EdD, MPH | Interprofessional Education and Practice SIG Professional Development Committee Chair
  - Shelene Thomas, PT | Interprofessional Education and Practice SIG Scholarly Endeavors Chair
  - Cheryl Babin, PT, DHS, MHA | Interprofessional Education and Practice SIG Communications Committee Chair
  - Leah Lowe, PT, DPT, PhD, Interprofessional Education and Practice SIG Nominating Committee Chair
- Physical Therapist Assistant Educators
  - Jordan Tucker, PT, DPT, EdD | Physical Therapist Assistant Educators SIG Chair
  - Deanne Yates, PTA, PhD | Physical Therapist Assistant Educators SIG Vice Chair

- Angela Lippiello, PTA | Physical Therapist Assistant Educators SIG Recording Secretary
- Amanda Heilman, PTA, MHS | Physical Therapist Assistant Educators SIG Membership Secretary
- Carolyn Shisler, PT | Physical Therapist Assistant Educators SIG Nominating Committee Chair
- Jane Jackson, PTA, MS | Nominating Committee
- Residency/Fellowship Education
  - Darren Calley, PT, DScPT | Residency/Fellowship Education SIG Chair
  - David Nolan PT, DPT, MS, OCS, SCS, CSCS | Residency/Fellowship Education SIG Vice Chair
  - Kristel Maes, PT, DPT | Residency/Fellowship Education SIG Treasurer/Secretary
  - Martha Bloyer PT, DPT | Residency/Fellowship Education SIG Membership Secretary
  - Kristina Stein, PT, MPT | Residency/Fellowship Education SIG Nominating Committee Chair
  - Jodie Rush, PT, DPT, OCS | Residency/Fellowship Education SIG Nominating Committee
  - Kristine Neelon, PT, DPT | Residency/Fellowship Education SIG Communications Committee Chair
- Scholarship of Education
  - Sarah Gilliland, PT, DPT, PhD | Scholarship of Education SIG Chair
  - Tricia Prokop, PT, MSPT, EdD | Scholarship of Education SIG Vice Chair
  - Cara Felter, PT, DPT, MPH, PhD | Scholarship of Education SIG Secretary
  - Liana Wooten, PT, PhD | Scholarship of Education SIG Nominating Committee Chair
  - Michell Wolden, PT, DPT, PhD | Nominating Committee
- Nominating Committee
  - Tara Haj, PT, DPT | Nominating Committee Chair
  - Karen Bock, PT, MPT, PhD | Nominating Committee
  - Brandy Schwarz, PT, DPT, EdD | Nominating Committee
- Awards Committee
  - Tiffany Kiphart, PTA, ATC, MEd | Awards Committee Chair
  - Carrie Clark Hawkins PT, DPT, PhD | Awards Committee Board Liaison
  - Denise O'Dell, PT, DSc | Awards Committee Member

- Jeanne Smith, PT, DPT | Awards Committee Member
- Bradley Tragord, PT, DPT, DSc | Awards Committee Member
- Research Committee
  - Michael Buck PT, PhD, ATC, Cert MDT, CSCS | Research Committee Chair
  - Jamie Greco, PT, DPT, EdD | Research Committee Member
  - Rachel Tappan, PT, DPT | Research Committee Member
  - Kim Dao, PT, DPT | Research Committee Member
  - Melissa Tovin, PT, PhD | Research Committee Member
- Program Committee: CSM:
  - Rebecca Leugers, PT | CSM Committee Co-Chair
  - Frances Kistner, PT, PhD | CSM Committee Co-Chair
  - Michael Furtado, DPT, EdD, MS | CSM Committee Co-Chair
  - Kirsten Potter, PT, DPT, MS | CSM Committee Board Liaison
  - Derek Liuzzo, PT, DPT, MBA, PhD | AF SIG Representative
  - Marsha Edwards Rutland, PT, BSPT, MEd, ScD | AE SIG Representative
  - Julie Lombardi, PT, DPT | CE SIG Representative
  - Sally McCormack Tutt, PT, DPT, EdD, MPH | IPEP SIG Representative
  - Pamela Pologruto, PT, DPT | PTAE SIG Representative
  - Christina Bentrewicz PT, DPT | RFE SIG Representative
  - Kelly Reynolds, PT, EdD, MS | SOE SIG Representative
- Program Committee: ELC:
  - Jennifer Howanitz, PT, DPT | ELC Committee Co-Chair
  - Mary Beth Holmes PT, DPT | ELC Committee Co-Chair
  - Ralph Utzman, PT, PhD | ELC Committee Co-Chair
  - Kirsten Potter PT, DPT, MS | ELC Committee Board Liaison
  - Derek Liuzzo, PT, DPT, MBA, PhD | AF SIG Representative
  - Marsha Rutland, PT, ScD | AE SIG Co-Representative
  - Julie Lombardi PT, DPT | CE SIG Representative
  - Sally McCormack Tutt, PT, DPT, EdD, MPH | IPEP SIG Representative
  - Pamela Pologruto | PTAE SIG Representative
  - Laura Zajac-Cox, PT, DPT | RFE SIG Representative
  - Kelly Braden Reynolds, PT, DPT, PhD | SOE SIG Representative
- Professional Development Committee:
  - Kirsten Potter, PT, DPT, MS | Professional Development Committee Chair
  - Christina M. Wisdom PT, DPT, EdD | Professional Development Committee Member
  - Elizabeth Ruckert, PT, DPT | Professional Development Committee Member

- Teresa Long Pierce, PT, DPT, PhD | Professional Development Committee Member
- Robin Baker, PT, DPT | Professional Development Committee Member
- Catherine Bilyeu, PT, DPT | Professional Development Committee Member
- Jon Kenoyer, PTA | Professional Development Committee Member
- Finance Committee:
  - Erin Faraclos PT, DPT, PHD | Finance Committee Chair
  - Tarang Jain, PT, DPT, PhD | Finance Committee Member
  - John Mischke, PT, DPT | Finance Committee Member
  - Chad Schmeeckle, PT, DPT | Finance Committee Member
- Membership and Belonging Committee
  - Michael Powers, PT, DPT, EdD | Chair
  - Minerva Gatling, PT, DPT | PTAE SIG Member
  - Steven Skinner, PT, EdD | PTAE SIG Member
  - Amanda Bryson, PTA | PTAE SIG Member
  - Myla Quiben, PT, DPT, MS, PhD | IPEP SIG Member
  - Liana Wooten, PT, DPT, PhD | SOE SIG Member
  - Martha Henao Bloyer, PT, DPT | RFE SIG Member
- APTA Academy of Education Representatives to the APTA House of Delegates:
  - Vicki LaFay, PT, DPT, PhD | Chief Delegate
  - Andrew Wilcox, PTA, MHA, PhD | 2nd Delegate
  - Jaime Gonzalez, PT, DPT | Alternate Delegate
- Federal Affairs
  - Allison Smith, PT, DPT, PhD | Federal Affairs Liaison
- Communications Committee
  - Arvie Vitente, PT, DPT, MPH, PhD | Chair
  - Lea Verebes, PT | Social Media Coordinator
  - Kristina Latva, PT | Volunteer Coordinator
  - Derek Liuzzo, PT | JoPTE Social Media Coordinator
  - Robert Sweet PT, DPT | Web Site Editor
- Webinar Committee
  - Michele Valencia, PT, DPT | Chair
  - Gina Tarud, PT, DPT | Member
  - Chris Nichols, PTA | Member
  - Lauren Tighe, PT, DPT, ATC, EdD | Member
  - Kristen Metzler-Wilson, PT, PhD | Member
  - Christine Alvero, PT, DPT, ATC, MBA | Member
  - Benjamin Cooksey, PT, DPT

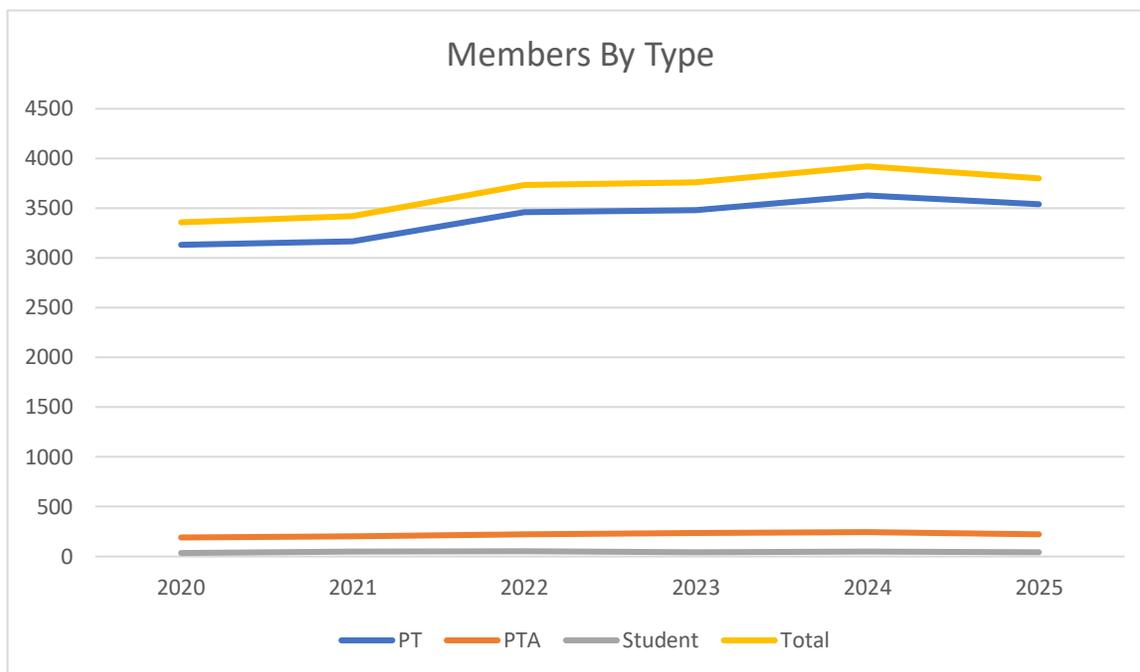
- Representatives and Liaisons
  - Shannon Simpson, PTA | APTA PTA Council Representative
  - Judy Wright Williams, PTA | Liaison to LDW Lecture Steering Committee
  - Carolyn Shisler, PT | Collaborative for PT Education Representative
  - Michael Powers, PT, DPT, EdD | APTA Belonging and Excellence Liaison
  - Darren Calley, PT, DScPT | APTA Post Professional Council Liaison
  - Andrea Rivera Laforet | Student Council Liaison
- JoPTE (Journal of Physical Therapy Education)
  - Keshrie Naidoo, PT, DPT, MS | JoPTE Editor-in-Chief
  - JoPTE Editorial Board:
    - Beliz Belgen Kaygisiz, PT, PhD | Editorial Board Member
    - Marisa Birkmeier, PT | Editorial Board Member
    - Tara Dickson, PT, DPT, PhD | Editorial Board Member
    - Lisa Dutton, PT, PhD | Editorial Board Member
    - Melanie K. Farlie, Bphysio, PhD | Editorial Board Member
    - Mary Beth Holmes, PT, DPT, PhD | Editorial Board Member
    - Steve Jernigan, PT, PhD, FNAP | Editorial Board Member
    - Diane Jette PT, DSc, FAPTA | Editorial Board Member
    - Allen Lee, PT, PhD, DPT | Editorial Board Member
    - Murray Maitland, PT, PhD | Editorial Board Member
    - Ndidiamaka (Didi) Matthews, PT, DPT | Editorial Board Member
    - Kenneth Miller PT, DPT, MA, GCS, CEEAA | Editorial Board Member
    - Terrence Nordstrom, PT, EdD, FAPTA | Editorial Board Member
    - Matthew Nuciforo, PT, DPT, PhD | Editorial Board Member
    - Raine Osborne, PT, DPT, EdD | Editorial Board Member
    - Yves Palad, EdD, MSPH, PTRP | Editorial Board Member
    - Laura Plummer, PT, DPT, EdD | Editorial Board Member
    - Leslie Portney, PT, DPT, PhD, FAPTA | Editorial Board Member
    - Erin Simunds, PT | Editorial Board Member
    - Kimberly Varnado, PT, DPT, DHsc | Editorial Board Member
    - Diane Veneri PT, EdD, NCS | Editorial Board Member
    - Susan Wainwright, PT, PhD | Editorial Board Member

# 2025 BYLAWS REVISIONS

## 2025 Bylaws Revision Approvals

- MOTION 2025-AM-001: Amends the bylaws to reflect a change in the Nominating Committee Chair role to become a non-voting member of the Board.
- MOTION 2025-AM-002: Amends the bylaws to reflect a change in the Elections process to change the voting period from four (4) weeks to two (2) weeks.

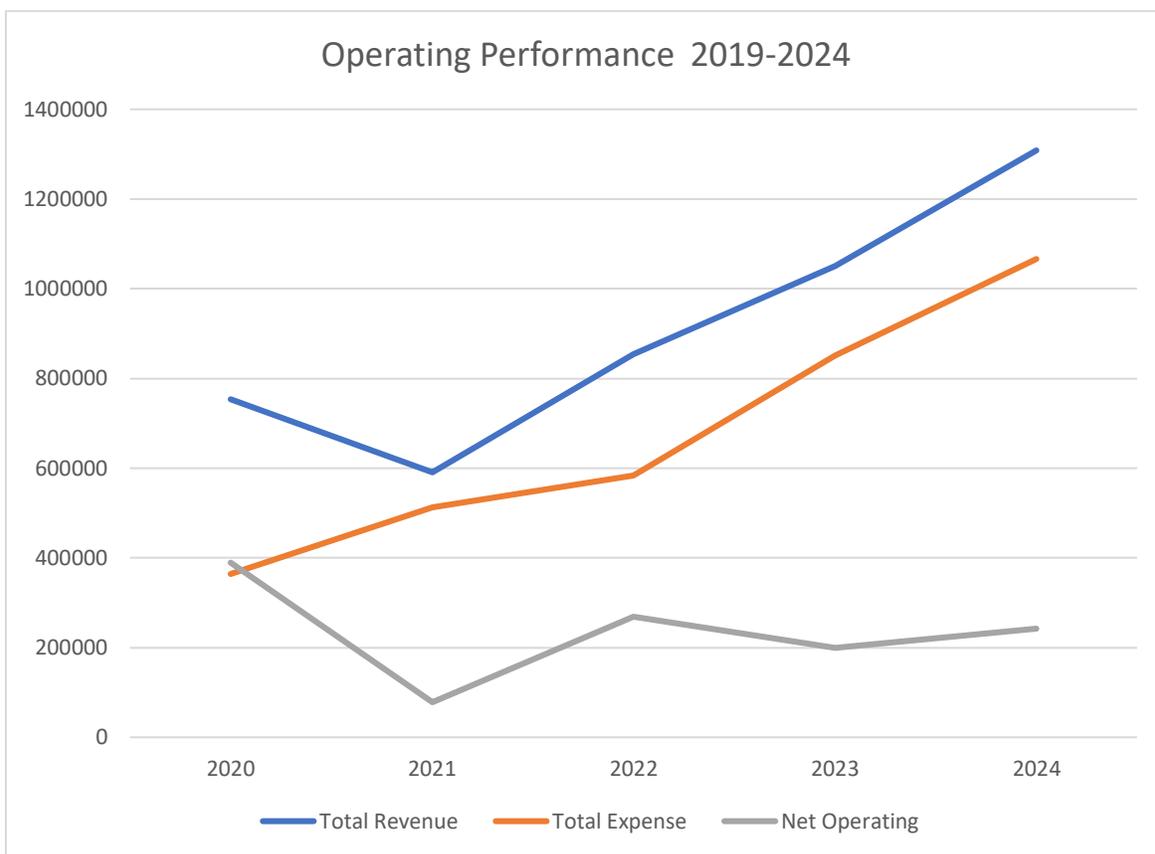
## 2025 YEAR-END MEMBERSHIP



Total Academy membership saw a small drop in membership after steady growth since 2020:

- **Total:** 3% drop from 2024-2025
- **PT:** 3% drop from 2024-2025
- **PTA:** 10% drop from 2024-2025
- **Student:** 6% drop from 2024-2025

# 2024 YEAR END FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



## Notes on overall performance:

2024 was a great year for the APTA Academy of Education's finances.

- Income exceeded expectations by over \$345,000
  - Higher dues than expected
  - More registration and sponsorships than projected
  - More than \$260,000 in investment income
- Expenses were down about \$48,000 vs. the budget
- Net income was over \$240,000

# OFFICER & DIRECTOR REPORTS

**Mission:** Advance physical therapists and physical therapist assistants as educators

**Vision:** The premier resource for physical therapist and physical therapist educators

## Academy of Education Goals 2025-2027:

**(1) Advance:** Inspiring physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in their roles as educators.

**(2) Connect:** Leading physical therapy education through organizational collaboration and member engagement.

**(3) Elevate:** Elevating the profession by furthering physical therapy educational research.

**(4) Lead:** Exhibiting strong leadership to advance the Academy.

Value: Efficient and effective decision-making and communication.

## President Report



**VICKI LAFAY**

PT, DPT, PhD

PRESIDENT

### 2025 Activities:

#### Governance, Leadership, and Board Effectiveness (Goal 4: Lead)

During 2025, the Executive Committee (EC) advanced a series of governance and leadership refinements to strengthen continuity, role clarity, and operational effectiveness. A formal Board self-evaluation was conducted, with findings synthesized and translated into targeted improvement actions addressing onboarding processes, agenda structure, Board recruitment practices, and representation. These actions informed subsequent refinements to meeting flow and leadership onboarding implemented later in the year.

Updates to the Academy organizational chart were reviewed and approved to more clearly delineate elected and appointed roles, improve transparency for members, and ensure alignment between governance structure and active programs and committees. These clarifications supported more consistent appointment and reappointment

processes across leadership roles, including standing committee memberships and editorial leadership positions.

Leadership succession and continuity were strengthened through EC-led review of officer sequencing, refinement of nomination timelines, and mentoring of prospective leaders. This work aligned with parallel efforts by the Nominating Committee to expand recruitment strategies, increase visibility at ELC, and provide structured onboarding for SIG-level nominating committees. Appointments and reappointments were finalized for key leadership roles, including House of Delegates chief and alternate delegates, PTA Council liaison, Federal Affairs liaison, JoPTE Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editors, Fellowship in Higher Education Leadership (FHEL) Program Director, and standing committee memberships. Policy updates related to travel reimbursement, per diem alignment with GSA standards, and fiscal oversight were reviewed and implemented to support consistency, equity, and responsible stewardship.

### **Strategic Direction and Plan Execution (Goals 2: Connect; 4: Lead)**

Strategic alignment and disciplined execution were emphasized throughout the year. Structured strategic plan reflection (end of first year) and planning sessions were incorporated into July and October Board meetings, including review of progress toward existing priorities and discussion of emerging risks and opportunities affecting physical therapy education. These sessions directly informed refinement of strategic objectives related to leadership development pathways, scholarly engagement infrastructure, and member connectivity.

In October 2025, the Board approved finalized strategic plan objectives for implementation beginning in 2026. Following approval, strategic objectives were translated into actionable priorities across committee charges, SIG work plans, and budget decisions. For example, scholarly engagement priorities were reflected in continued investment in Education Impact Initiatives (EI<sup>2</sup>), clarification of research priorities through the Research Committee and SOE SIG collaboration, and strengthened infrastructure around the Journal of Physical Therapy Education.

### **Executive Committee Oversight and Transition Planning (Goals 2: Connect; 4: Lead)**

In the latter half of 2025, the EC activity focused on implementation and transition planning. This included finalization of award recommendations, preparation for 2026 nomination cycles, confirmation of Education Leadership Conference (ELC) leadership appointments and planning timelines, and oversight of JoPTE associate editor memoranda of understanding.

Budget preparation for 2026 initiatives—including Education Impact Initiatives (EI<sup>2</sup>), FHEL, and professional development programming—was conducted with attention to sustainability and alignment with strategic priorities. This approach mirrored broader EC efforts to balance innovation with fiscal responsibility across conferences, grants, and leadership programs.

### **Professional Representation and External Leadership (Goals 1: Advance; 4: Lead)**

Academy leadership maintained active engagement in national professional governance and policy dialogue. In 2025, the Academy represented in the APTA House of Delegates, supporting coordinated communication, preparation, and representation of Academy perspectives within the broader APTA governance structure. This work aligned with ongoing collaboration between Academy and ACAPT leadership, section delegates, and APTA staff to ensure educator perspectives were consistently represented.

Ongoing monitoring of national issues affecting physical therapy education—including accreditation developments, professional designation discussions, and educational financing considerations—was incorporated into EC discussions to support informed decision-making and member awareness through leadership forums and conference programming.

### **Professional Development and Programmatic Stewardship (Goals 1: Advance; 2: Connect; 4: Lead)**

The EC provided strategic oversight for the Academy's professional development portfolio, supporting Education Leadership Conference and AoE CSM planning, pre-conference programming, and partnerships with ACAPT. In 2025, the updated memorandum of understanding with ACAPT was refined, finalized, and executed, strengthening shared governance, planning processes, and financial sustainability for ELC. These refinements supported continued growth, as reflected in increased attendance, submission volume, and peer review participation at ELC 2025. Decisions related to registration pricing and pre-conference viability were grounded in financial analysis and long-term sustainability considerations.

A major area of EC focus was the continued development and launch planning for the Excellence in Education Certificate (EEC). Following leadership transitions, the Board approved engagement of external consultation to review and strengthen program processes, including defined scope of work, contract duration, and budget parameters.

This work stabilized program infrastructure and positioned the EEC for a planned launch in 2026 with clearer quality assurance, peer review, and operational supports.

### **Scholarship, Research, and Knowledge Advancement (Goal 3: Elevate)**

At the Board level, continued investment in scholarship and research was affirmed through approval of funding allocations, as well as for member engagement. These investments supported initiatives such as research consulting sessions, educational research workshops, and cross-SIG collaboration. The Education Impact Initiatives (EI<sup>2</sup>), trendously impactful in 2025, were approved to continue in 2026.

For the *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*, Board actions included approval of associate editor appointments, establishment of associate editor compensation aligned with peer journals, onboarding of an editorial fellow, and clarification of editorial leadership roles through updated memoranda of understanding. These actions supported increased submission volume, improved efficiency, and sustainability of the Academy's flagship scholarly publication.

### **Engagement and Belonging (Goals 3: Elevate; 4: Lead)**

With Board approval, the Academy engaged Tenenbaum Law Group to conduct an external review of Academy policies, programs, and scholarship processes through an engagement and belonging lens. The President worked with the Executive Committee to define the scope of this engagement, ensuring attention to governance documents, committee practices, funding mechanisms, and member-facing programs.

In parallel, the President and prior President supported refinement of the Engagement and Belonging committee charges, scholarship criteria, and educational programming, while intentionally integrating these considerations into strategic planning discussions and Education Leadership Conference programming. This work complemented parallel efforts by the Engagement and Belonging Committee to support dialogue, responsiveness, and sustainability amid a complex external environment.

### **Collaboration and External Engagement (Goal 2: Connect)**

The Academy strengthened internal and external connectivity through external collaborations and relationships with APTA, ACAPT, AAPT, PTLI, and other partners. This included active engagement in the APTA Collaborative for PT Education, with EC-approved appointment of Academy representatives across multiple focus areas to contribute to national dialogue, shared resources, and coordinated advancement of physical therapy education. The EC worked to ensure these appointments aligned with

Academy expertise and strategic priorities, and that feedback from the Collaborative informed internal planning and decision-making. Additional engagement included participation in national conversations related to competency-based education, accreditation, and educational policy, as well as coordination with APTA committees on shared priorities. Internally, the President supported exploration of new engagement models for academic leaders and senior educators, including conceptual planning for communities and programming that address the needs of department chairs, program directors, and senior administrators. These efforts aligned with strategic priorities related to member engagement, leadership development, and professional identity.

### **Digital Engagement and Leadership Communities (Goals 2: Connect; 4: Lead)**

The Academy successfully launched EduSphere, establishing a centralized, modern platform to enhance communication, knowledge exchange, and member connectivity across committees, SIGs, and leadership groups. Early adoption demonstrated strong engagement and validated EduSphere as a foundational infrastructure to support collaboration, dissemination of resources, and timely dialogue among members. In parallel, the President and Executive Committee initiated early planning for a Higher Education Leaders community, responding to identified member needs among program directors, department chairs, and senior academic leaders. Preliminary work focused on defining purpose, scope, and alignment with the Academy's strategic goals, with future plans to formalize structure and engagement opportunities that support leadership development, peer connection, and shared problem-solving in higher education.

## Vice President Report



### Completed Action Items for 2025:

The membership approved two bylaws revisions.

1. Update the Nominating Committee Chair to a non-voting member of the Board of Directors.
2. Change the online voting window from four weeks to two weeks.

Additionally the membership were advised of editorial changes within the bylaws to align with contemporary language offered by APTA.

## Treasurer Report



### Completed Action Items in 2025:

Achievements for the Treasurer were performed in collaboration with Academy staff and were related to ongoing financial stewardship of the Academy.

- Held two Finance Committee meetings during the year. [Goal 4]
- Monthly review of financial statements. [Goal 4]
- Review of taxes for FY 2024. [Goal 4]
- Advised Executive Committee and Full Board on financial implications of programming decisions. [Goal 4]

- Worked with Academy staff to develop budget for 2026 and presented to BOD at ELC. [Goal 4]

### Activities in Progress to Continue in 2026:

- Present 2026 budget to membership at annual business meeting in February 2026. [Goal 4]
- Work with Board and Executive Director to create 2027 budget. [Goal 4]

## Director of Professional Development Report



### 2025 Activities:

1. Completed orientation and onboarding to my new position. Included meeting with various AoE and ACAPT leaders to understand roles and responsibilities of all, and opportunities for collaboration. (Goal 4: Lead)
2. July NFDW in Chicago: Workshop held in July 2025 in Chicago. Team has analyzed feedback from participants and identified changes for 2026. Registration opened for 2026 in December 2025. (Goal 1: Advance)
3. Virtual NFDW: Workshop held in March 2025. Team has met to review feedback and set tentative schedule for 2026 workshop to be taught over 3.5 consecutive days. Registration is now open for the workshop planned for March 2-5, 2026. (Goal 1: Advance)
4. Professional Development Committee: Met in April, July, September, and November 2025. Currently working on two projects. 1. Educator Resource website update: Continued work to identify an organizational structure (topics/categories) for the website. 2. ELC Pre-Con proposal process: The group has developed a rubric for assessing submissions; currently under review by all committee members. (Goal 1: Advance)
5. Programming Reps: Have met twice (April and September 2025). These meetings provided opportunities to share information and address needs. (Goal 2: Connect)

6. Webinar Series: Two webinars held in the fall (both on IPE) with others held in winter-spring 2025. Committee has increased efforts to recruit speakers (e.g. at ELC 2025). (Goal 1: Advance)
7. Professional Development Program Leadership (including ELC and CSM Planning Committees and Webinar Committee): Topics discussed included CSM planning, involvement of SIGs in informing CSM and ELC programming, webinars (see above), CSM programming rep recruitment (replace Rebecca Leuger), and plan for future meetings (likely December, March, June). (Goal 1: Advance)
8. ELC 2025: Three pre-conference workshops were held in October 2025 (two half-day re CAPTE for DPT and PTA educators and CCIP - Level II). All went well and were positively viewed. The attendance for the two half-day CAPTE workshops was particularly strong. (Goal 1: Advance)
9. Reviewed applications for EEC positions (Consultant and Director). (Goal 4: Lead)
10. Met with ACAPT professional development leaders to discuss our respective efforts and their plan for new professional development offerings through ACAPT. (Goal 4: Lead)

#### **Activities to Continue in 2026:**

1. July NFDW in Chicago: Team is planning 2026 workshop. Site and onsite support are confirmed. Planning to alter the schedule/plan based on participant feedback to allow for more networking time and concurrent sessions to allow time to explore selected content more deeply. (Goal 1: Advance)
2. Virtual NFDW 2026: Workshop to be held in March 2026. Team has met to review feedback and set tentative schedule for 2026 workshop. Facilitators continue to meet regularly. Will deliver the workshop over 3.5 days vs. the month of March as previously done. (Goal 1: Advance)
3. Professional Development Committee: Will continue our work on the AoE Educator Resource website update and ELC Pre-Con proposal process (plan to pilot for ELC 2026). Plan to meet quarterly (September, November, March, June). (Goal 1: Advance)
4. Programming Reps meeting will meet again in January 2026. Will discuss their suggestion for a SIG Leadership Meeting and I will share feedback from the October Board meeting on this idea. Will continue to provide support for SIG programming and solicit feedback from the Programming Reps for other professional development opportunities. (Goal 2: Connect)

5. Webinar Series: Will continue to discuss mechanisms for soliciting proposals for webinars. Discussions about soliciting proposals are ongoing. Planning to meet with committee 3x/year (September, January, and April). (Goal 1: Advance)
6. Professional Development Program Leadership (includes ELC and CSM Planning Committees and Webinar Committee): Continue to partner to support and coordinate programming at ELC and CSM, including Pre-Conference workshops. Plan to meet 3x/year (schedule TBD). (Goal 1: Advance)
7. APTA Combined Sections Meeting Feb. 12 – 14, 2026 in Anaheim, CA. (Goal 1: Advance)
8. APTA Education Leadership Conference Oct. 16 – 18, 2026 in Washington D.C. (Goal 1: Advance)

## Director of Communications and Promotion Report



### 2025 Activities:

1. Leadership Integration and Governance Engagement (Goals 2, 4: Connect, Lead)
  - A. Attended the APTA Academy of Education Leaders Orientation (June 25, 2025) to ensure continuity of communications priorities and alignment with Academy governance structures.
  - B. Participated in the APTA Academy of Education Leaders Board Meetings (July 10, 2025 and October 15, 2025), contributing to strategic discussions related to engagement, visibility, and leadership continuity.
  - C. Attended and engaged with Academy leaders during the Fellowship in Higher Education Leadership Graduation (July 10, 2025), strengthening connections across leadership and scholarly pipelines.
2. Digital Community Standards and Member Engagement (Goal 2, Connect)
  - A. Authored the EduSphere Engagement Guidelines, establishing clear expectations for professionalism, inclusivity, and respectful dialogue within the Academy's online community.

- B. These guidelines extend prior efforts to standardize communication practices and promote a psychologically safe and inclusive environment for PT and PTA educators.
- 3. Communications Infrastructure and Strategic Alignment (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4: Advance, Connect, Elevate, Lead)
  - A. Initiated review of existing communication workflows, including advertising and promotion processes developed under prior leadership, to ensure continuity while identifying opportunities for refinement and scalability.
  - B. Began intentional alignment of communications planning with Academy strategic goals (Advance, Connect, Elevate, Lead) to ensure consistent messaging across platforms.

### **Activities to Continue in 2026:**

- 1. Communications Committee Structure and Meetings (Goals 2, 4: Connect, Lead)
  - A. The Communications Committee supports the Academy's mission to advance physical therapists and physical therapist assistants as educators by ensuring consistent, inclusive, and strategic communication across platforms.
  - B. To promote collaboration, accountability, and sustainability, the committee will convene quarterly.
  - C. Standing Quarterly Meeting Months:
    - I. January
    - II. April
    - III. July
    - IV. October
  - D. Meeting dates are scheduled in advance and communicated to committee members. Additional ad hoc meetings may be convened as needed to support time-sensitive initiatives (e.g., CSM, ELC, publications).
- 2. Inclusive Language and Representation (Goal 4: Lead)
  - A. Continue collaboration with Academy leadership to ensure consistent and accurate inclusion of PTA educators across Academy communications, extending initiatives begun under prior leadership.
- 3. Strategic Communications Enhancement (Goal 2: Connect)
  - A. Refine and expand existing promotion and advertising frameworks to support broader dissemination of Academy initiatives, publications, and member opportunities.
- 4. Digital Engagement and Member Experience (Goals: 1, 2: Advance, Connect)

- A. Evaluate and strengthen the Academy's digital presence to improve clarity, accessibility, and engagement across diverse educator audiences.
- 5. Leadership Continuity and Sustainability (Goal 4: Lead)
  - A. Document communication processes, templates, and decision-making frameworks to ensure continuity across leadership transitions.

## Director for Scholarly Engagement Report



### 2025 Activities:

1. Hosted 4 platform sessions for a total of 32 presentations and 160 poster presentations at CSM 2025. (Goal 3: Elevate)
2. Reviewed, scored, ranked and selected 220 abstracts for platform and poster presentations at CSM 2026. (Goal 3: Elevate)
3. Finalized the list of Academy Research Priorities and moved the list to the SOE-SIG for review. The list should be submitted to the BOD for final review and action. (Goal 3: Elevate)
4. Onboarded two new members of the Research Committee. (Goal 4: Lead)
5. Edited the website information for grant applications in an attempt to make the instructions and process more transparent and to support the efforts of our applicants. (Goal 4: Lead)
6. Received, reviewed, scored and selected the Grant Awardees for 2026. 12 Small Grant and 11 Large Grant applications were received with 1 awardee for the large grant and 2 awardees for the small grants. (Goal 3: Elevate)

### Activities to Continue in 2026:

Planning for CSM 2026 and preparing for the process for CSM 2027. A representative of the committee will present at GAMER this summer as we have done in the past. We are prepared to work with SOE-SIG to finalize the list of research priorities for submission to the BOD for review and action.

# SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) REPORTS

## Academic Faculty SIG Report



### 2025 Activities:

1. We completed two educational offerings in for APTA CSM and ELC.
1. For CSM, we offered an overview of the current AI offerings along with brainstorming of how to implement in a world of AI absent, AI protected, and AI encouraged assignments. (Goal 3: Elevate)
2. For ELC, we worked in conjunction with the IPEP SIG as a means of networking and exposure to the editors of JOPTe for an overview and question and answer activity. (Goals 2-3, Connect, Elevate)
2. Our two networking groups are running smoothly and fairly independently with the Admissions Networking Group offering multiple sessions throughout the year and the Simulations Networking Group finding a foothold among many academics and clinicians. (Goals 2, 4: Connect, Lead)
3. We have begun promoting our online community as well in an effort to continue to network and have a support system for all academics regardless of years of experience. (Goal 2: Connect)

### Activities to Continue in 2026:

1. The AF SIG will seek to continue to provide informational and educational packages at CSM and ELC. We continue to explore connecting and compressing meetings to the benefit of our members. (Goals 2, 3: Connect, Elevate)
2. We highly encourage more networking groups and innovative approaches such as reaching out to the JOPTe journal club and Scholarship of Education SIG to see how we can best align ideas from our members. (Goal 2: Connect)
3. We will continue to grow our online presence in the new networking online communities as well as reach out to students who can now have free membership when it is deployed. (Goals 2, 4: Connect, Lead)

## Anatomy Educators SIG Report



### 2025 Activities:

1. A formal recruitment letter intended to expand both the depth and breadth of AE SIG membership - targeting Physical Therapy/Physical Therapist Assistant (PT/PTA) educators and anatomists teaching within PT/PTA programs - was distributed to PT/PTA programs nationwide using current data from the Research, Practice, and Mentorship (RPM) survey. (Goals 2, 4: Connect, Lead)
2. Ashley Simons, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS, was elected to serve as a member of the AE SIG Nominating Committee. (Goal 4: Lead)
3. Noel Goodstadt, PT, DPT, OCS, CSCS, and Jeb Helms, PT, DPT, EdD, OCS, SCS, were appointed to the AE SIG Research Committee. (Goal 4: Lead)
4. Casey Movinsky, PT, DPT, PCS, and Kelby Kaplan, PT, DPT, EdD, were appointed as co-chairs of the AE SIG Liaison Committee. Casey Movinsky attended the 2025 American Association of Clinical Anatomists (AACA) national conference, and as a result, AE SIG members were offered discounted attendance at the 2025-2026 AACA Evidence Based online Anatomy seminars was offered by the AACA President. Further collaboration between the AACA and AE SIG is expected in the future. (Goal 4: Lead)
5. AE SIG business meetings were conducted during ELC 2025 and CSM 2025. (Goal 2: Connect)

**Activities to Continue in 2026**

1. The Research Committee will develop and implement “Second Chance Scholarship” seminars, to be offered annually following CSM and ELC, providing SIG members with an additional platform to disseminate research through a webinar format. (Goal 1: Advance)
2. The Research and Liaison Committees will collaborate to develop and promote recurring, author-led Journal Club sessions. (Goals 1, 2: Advance, Connect)
3. SIG leadership will continue efforts to advance the work of the Anatomy Core Competency Task Force. (Goal 1: Advance)
4. The RPM survey, AE SIG website, and community platform will be continuously monitored and enhanced to support the mission, purpose, and objectives of the AE SIG. (Goal 2: Elevate)
5. Updated descriptions of the Research and Liaison Committees will be submitted to the Academy Board for review and approval in 2026. (Goal 3: Advance)
6. The SIG will continue to strengthen relationships and pursue collaborative opportunities with other anatomy-related organizations, including the AACE. (Goal 2: Connect)
7. The AE SIG Leadership will continue to strategically utilize the AE SIG website and community forum to strengthen the overall value proposition of SIG membership. These platforms will serve as formal channels for ongoing engagement and communication between leadership and members, supporting the identification, development, and delivery of initiatives and products that advance member value. (Goal 2: Connect)

## Clinical Education SIG Report



### Completed Action Items in 2025:

1. Received nominations for awarded scholarship to attend CSM 2026. (Goals 1, 2, 4: Advance, Connect, Lead)
2. Received nominations for SCCE award, winner to be awarded at CSM 2026. (Goals 1, 2, 4: Advance, Connect, Lead)
3. The workgroup that created a “Roadmap to Becoming an SCCE” Manual was posted on website, mentioned in newsletter and posted on EduSphere. (Goals 2, 4: Connect, Lead)
4. Received in budget funding to sponsor CE SIG members to ELC(3) and CSM(3) pre-conference programs, APTA’s CCIP(3), two additional ELC scholarships (Goals 1, 2: Advance, Connect)
5. Networking event with SCCEs and CIs at ELC 2025. Met with group of clinicians interested in ongoing collaboration with current group. (Goal 1: Advance)
6. Submitting updates through the AoE newsletter on updates related to the CE SIG. (Goal 1: Advance)
7. Collaborated with ACAPT Clinical Education Commission at ELC 2025, co-presenters with CESIG on topic of Placement Process for PT students. (Goals 3, 4: Elevate, Lead)
8. Collaborated with EBP SIG- submission not accepted for ELC 2025 presentation. Discussion to collaborate in 2026. (Goals 3, 4: Elevate, Lead)

### Activities to Continue in 2026:

1. The Clinical Educator Pathway to Excellence Task Force has been active with Academy and CESIG chairs as liaisons. The taskforce has explored the creation of a pathway both for awarding demonstrated excellence in clinical instruction as well as in establishing a professional development pathway for physical therapy and physical therapist assistant clinical instructors to grow in their role as clinical educators. Members and chairs selected, discussion with Academy Treasurer, discussion with Excellence in Clinical Education Certificate Program chair to collaborate groups, discussion with consultant on appropriate domains to place items in for portfolio. (Goals 2, 4: Connect, Lead)
2. Ongoing management of data from multiple sources (Academy, ELC Open Forum, and CSM) to build a current and accessible membership database for the SIG to communicate with members. (Goals 2, 4: Connect, Lead)
3. Mentoring and Networking Community- SCCE/CI. Monthly standing meeting, multiple topics each month discussed. Current group would like to continue monthly meeting and not have formal structure. (Goal 1: Advance)
4. Enhance the CE SIG membership communication strategy to provide members with updates, CE SIG member profiles, and other information important to the CE SIG community. (Goal 2: Connect)
5. Create and host, at least quarterly, webinar series targeting clinical education topics for clinical faculty. (Goal 2: Connect)
6. Collaborate with Clinical Education Common Terminology Glossary. CESIG to serve as liaison and disperse updates. Have met with group along with ACAPT Clinical Education Commission members. (Goals 2, 4: Connect, Lead)

## Interprofessional Education and Practice SIG Report



**KIMBERLY ANNE  
BERAN-SHEPLER**  
PT, DPT

IPEP CHAIR

### 2025 Activities:

1. Hosted 4 webinars related to the EI2 initiative: 1) Introduction to Interprofessional Education (IPE) 2) Assessment in IPE 3) Interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP) and 4) Intraprofessional Education. The 4th webinar was also supported by the PTA SIG. (Goals 2, 3: Connect, Elevate)

2. Hosted a member breakfast at CSM. (Goal 2: Connect)
3. Hosted a reception at Collaboration Across Borders (CAB) IX Conference. (Goal 2: Connect)
4. Leadership presentation at CAB IX. (Goal 1, 3, 4: Advance, Elevate, Lead)
5. Updated SIG website for a more centralized repository of IPE and IPCP resources. (Goal 3: Elevate)
6. Worked with APTA to update their website related to IPE resources. (Goal 3: Elevate)
7. Scholarship group hosted monthly meetings to discuss recent IPE and IPCP journal articles. (Goal 1 and 2: Advance, Connect)
8. Cohosted a member meeting at ELC (Goal 2: Connect)
9. Increased member enrollment through several initiatives such as hosting conference events and emailing National Academies of Practice Members who were not members of the SIG. (Goal 4: Lead)
10. Send welcome emails to all new SIG members. (Goal 4: Lead)

#### **Activities to Continue in 2026:**

1. Two members of professional development are working on survey to send to institutions about their IPE and IPCP activities, currently undergoing the IRB process.
2. Working on a publication related to IPE and IPCP resources.
3. Continue to provide education to our members via webinars.
4. Continue to grow our membership.

## **Physical Therapist Assistant Educators SIG Report**



#### **2025 Activities:**

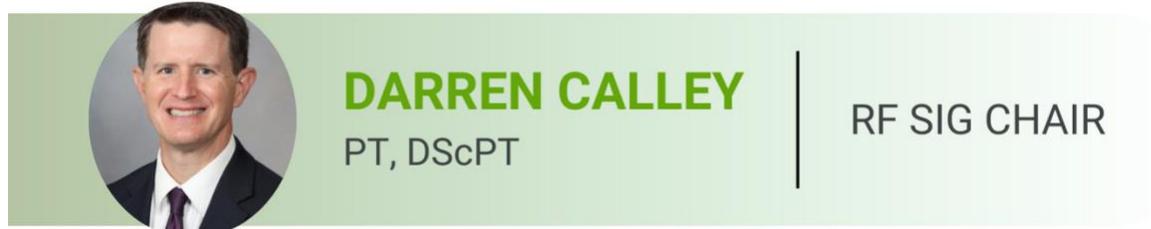
1. Sent two PTA Educators to FHEL utilizing funds from EII grant. (Goal 1: Advance)
2. Sponsored online Level 2 CCIP Course for PTA Educators utilizing funds from EII grant. (Goal 1: Advance)

3. Ran PTA Educator Book Club including providing copies of books and facilitating online discussions utilizing funds from EII grant. (Goals 1, 2: Advance, Connect)
4. Ran two cohorts of Teaching and Networking Communities connecting PTA Educators across the country to discuss current topics of interest. (Goal 2: Connect)
5. Supported APTA in recruiting SIG members for a focus group related to APTA work around RC 09-23 regarding PTA education and scope of work. (Goal 2: Connect)
6. Began planning for development of comprehensive PTA Educator Resource including recruiting volunteer committee members. (Goals 1, 2, 4: Advance, Connect, Lead)
7. Initiated process and recruited initial subject-matter experts with APTA to update module in learning center related to the PT/PTA relationship. (Goals 1, 2: Advance, Connect)
8. Hosted well-attended member business meetings at ELC and CSM connecting members to each other and to APTA, CAPTE, and FSBPT. (Goal 2: Connect)
9. With AOE staff support, continued to induct student members into PTA Student Honor Society. Updated website information/FAQs to reflect questions/feedback from members. (Goal 2: Connect)
10. Continue to work with PTA Council Liaison to further develop connect between AOE and PTA Council. (Goal 2, 4: Connect, Lead)
11. Applied for, and received additional EII grants to support PTA educators in their role and development. (Goal 1: Advance)

**Activities to Continue in 2026:**

1. Continue work on PTA Educators Resource with newly-established committee. (Goal 1, 2, 4: Advance, Connect, Lead)
2. Implement new EII grants to support sending 2 PTA educators to FHEL and up to 30 to ELC. (Goal 1: Advance)
3. Continue to support PTA Educator Teaching and Networking Committees, looking at alternate models if needed. (Goal 2: Connect)
4. Continue to support PTA Student Honor Society, updating as needed. (Goal 2: Connect)

## Residency & Fellowship SIG Report



### 2025 Activities:

1. Create, develop, and promote an RFESIG Residency/Fellowship Journal Club (Goal 3: Elevate)
  - A. Held two RFESIG Journal Club webinars in 2025 (September and December) with CEUs offered through APTA Learning Center. Plan to hold this journal club quarterly with a focus on discussing and disseminating residency research.
2. Continued progress toward RF Research Collaborative Initiatives Goals 3, 4: Elevate, Lead)
  - A. 3 RF Research Collaborative Initiatives continuing to progress through stages of data collection, analysis, and manuscript preparation.
  - B. Updates on these were presented to RFESIG membership at 2025 ELC in Kansas City.
3. Engage RFESIG members and advance residency/fellowship connections (Goals 1, 2: Advance, Connect)
  - A. 2025 CSM & ELC in-person RFESIG member meetings, provided updates and sought member feedback
  - B. Awarded 2025 Distinguished Mentor in Residency/Fellowship Education at 2025 CSM
4. APTA Post-Professional Education Council – Chair (Darren Calley) and Vice Chair (Dave Nolan) represent the RFESIG on this newly created residency/fellowship connection group. (Goals 2, 4: Connect, Lead)
  - A. Connected with other residency/fellowship chairs on the Post-Professional Education Council

### Activities to Continue in 2026:

1. Further engage RFESIG members and advance residency/fellowship connections (Goals 1, 2: Advance, Connect)

- A. Continued member engagement using EduSphere RFESIG Online Community resource as a connection point with members.
- B. Utilize the APTA Post-Professional Education Council to build connections and address important topics related to residency and fellowship education.
- C. Engage residents and students in RFESIG membership
- 2. Continued progress with RF Research Collaborative Initiatives Goals 3, 4: Elevate, Lead)
  - A. RF Research Collaborative Initiatives continuing to progress through stages of data collection and analysis.
- 3. Further curating RFESIG web page content and member engagement (Goals 1, 4: Advance, Lead)
  - A. Create and share content, connections, and resources to support student and resident engagement in residency and fellowship education, including:
    - I. The value of residency and fellowship training
    - II. Preparation of a strong residency or fellowship portfolio
    - III. Support for students applying to residency and fellowship programs
    - IV. Guidance for resident and fellow graduates pursuing post-training careers in education

## Scholarship of Education SIG Report



### Completed Action Items in 2025:

1. 20+ attendees at each of 3 research consulting sessions where experienced researchers were available for newer researchers to consult and seek guidance(short term mentoring): at CSM, virtually, and ELC. Positive reports from all mentees. (Goal 3: Elevate)

2. 60+ attendees at Education Research 101 session by SOE SIG leadership. Participants expressed interest in more supports for beginning researchers. (Goal 3: Elevate)
3. Piloting an interactive online database for SIG members to connect for research collaboration or mentoring. (Goal 2: Connect)
4. 3 Sessions of JOPTe Journal club held. (Goal 2: Connect)
5. Edited resources on SIG website to provide more supports for Novice researchers. (Goal 3: Elevate)
6. Content developed for EEC modules on research. Waiting on new EEC consultant to finalize and sign off. (Goal 1: Advance)
7. Awarded EII grant to develop two part virtual workshop to support developing educational researchers and form collaborative work groups. The workshop will be held in June and August of 2026 with team activities between and after sessions. (Goal 3: Elevate)

**Activities to Continue in 2026:**

1. Developing and hosting Stronger Together research and collaboration development workshop (funded by EII grant). (Goal 3: Elevate)
2. Research consulting session planned for CSM. (Goal 3: Elevate)

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Awards Committee Report



### Completed Action Items in 2025:

1. Presented awards at CSM 2025 for the Award for Leadership in Education, Cerasoli Lectureship, Distinguished Educator in PT, Distinguished Educator in PTA, and 3 winners for the Adopt-A-Doc scholarships (Goals 1, 3: Advance, Elevate)
2. Received nominations and made recommendations for 2025 awards submissions (Goal 1: Advance)
3. To decrease barriers within the nomination process and increase overall quantity of nominations, the committee studied nomination criteria across all SIG's and made recommendations for change in requirements for nominations for the Academy of Education Awards (Goal 4: Lead)

### Activities to Continue in 2026:

1. Attend CSM 2026 to present 2025 AoE awards (Goal 1: Advance)

## Engagement and Belonging Report



**MICHAEL POWERS**  
PT, DPT, EdD

ENGAGEMENT &  
BELONGING CHAIR

### 2025 Activities:

1. Finalized the AoE Engagement and Belonging Committee Charge, outlining the nature and responsibilities of committee. (Goal 4: Lead)
2. Collaborated with Engagement and Belonging Committee members on outlining concerns regarding DEI and current political climate and presented these concerns to Board of Directors. Facilitated discussion at Board of Directors meeting during ELC regarding strategies to continue the important work in a sustainable manner. (Goal 2: Connect)
3. With input from Board, name of DEI Committee updated to Engagement and Belonging Committee (Goal 4 - Lead)

### Activities to Continue in 2026:

1. Ensure asynchronous learning modules funded by education impact initiative grant is completed by end of 2026. Timeline for completion of these modules was extended to allow for updated descriptions of potential topics.
2. Establish plan for incoming Liaison, including considerations of name change to align with updated name of Engagement and Belonging Committee.

## ELC Program Committee Chair Report



**JENNIFER HOWANITZ**  
PT, DPT, GCS

ELC  
CO-CHAIR



**MARY BETH A. HOLMES**  
PT, DPT

ELC  
CO-CHAIR



**RALPH RUSSELL  
UTZMAN**  
PT, DPT

INCOMING  
ELC  
CO-CHAIR

### 2025 Activities:

1. Successful 20th Annual Education Leadership Conference in Kansas City, MO.  
(Goals 1, 2: Advance, Connect)
  - A. 1,352 attendees (13% increase from 2024)
  - B. 44 exhibitors
2. Programming Statistics (Goals 1, 2: Advance, Connect)
  - A. Platforms – 101 abstract submissions, 48 accepted
    - I. 2018: 50.7%
    - II. 2019: 36.5%
    - III. 2020: 75.9%
    - IV. 2021: 80.4%
    - V. 2022: 43.9%
    - VI. 2023: 57.6%
    - VII. 2024: 85%
    - VIII. 2025: 47.5%

- B. Posters – 161 abstract submissions, 120 accepted
  - I. 2018: 73.8%, 48 posters
  - II. 2019: 77.2%, 77 posters
  - III. 2020: 69.2%, 80 posters
  - IV. 2021: 75.4%, 112 posters
  - V. 2022: 74%, 120 posters
  - VI. 2023: 70.5%, 118 posters
  - VII. 2024: 68%, 98 posters
  - VIII. 2025: 74%
  
- C. Education Sessions -
  - I. 186 traditional education session proposals submitted, 83 accepted
  - II. 123 microlearn session proposals submitted, 48 accepted
  - III. 2018: 67.5%, 57 sessions
  - IV. 2019: 47%, 62 sessions
  - V. 2020: 81%, 81 sessions
  - VI. 2021: 69.2%, 72 sessions
  - VII. 2022: 54%, 10 Sunday morning program
  - VIII. 2023: 48.9%, 109 sessions
  - IX. 2024: 45%, 119 sessions
  - X. 2025: 42%, 131 sessions
  - XI. 16% increase in education session submissions, including a 23% increase in microlearn proposal submissions
  
- 3. Strong participant feedback: Over 95% of participants agreed or strongly agreed they had a positive conference experience and would recommend ELC.
- 4. Submission Review Process: (Goal 2]: Connect) This year, the committee developed training materials for abstract (poster and platform) and proposal (education session) reviewers. With an increased number of submissions, over 2200 individual peer reviews were provided, the most ever for ELC. We developed a mechanism for matching reviewers with proposals based on expertise, but this could not be fully implemented. The committee plans to fully implement this process for the 2026 cycle.
- 5. The ELC co-chair group presented a 90-minute panel discussion at the conference on how to prepare a successful proposal for ELC programming. This session was scheduled in a vacant programming schedule slot that became available due to an author withdrawal/cancellation. (Goal 2: Connect)
- 6. Preconference Sessions (Goal 2: Connect) – The committee was not directly involved in selecting preconference programming this year, and instead provided

consultation to the Director of Professional Development. The Academy sponsored the Level 2 Credentialed CI Program with 11 registered attendees. The Academy also worked with CAPTE to offer two half-day accreditation consultation sessions; one for DPT education programs and one for PTA education programs (85 attendees total). Our ACAPT partners sponsored two preconference courses: Advancing Clinical and Academic Teaching through Professional Identity Formation (half day), and Strategic Planning for Excellence: Leveraging the Blueprint for Academic Physical Therapy (one day).

7. ELC Co-Chair succession and on-boarding [Goals 2 and 4]:
8. MaryBeth Holmes completed her term as co-chair at the conclusion of ELC 2025. Prior to the conference, a call was posted for the open position, and three candidates were interviewed in late November. Paul Ullucci was selected to begin his 3-year term as an ELC co-chair beginning in January 2026.
9. Ralph Utzman completed the second year of his term, and Jennifer Howanitz completed the first year of her second term as co-chair.

### **Activities in Progress for 2026**

1. ELC 2026 scheduled for October 16-18 in Washington DC (Goal 2: Connect)
  - A. Next year, our location rotates to the east. Washington DC is centrally located on the east coast with easy airline connections. There are numerous PT and PTA education programs nearby. We anticipate attendance similar to 2025.
2. Abstract and proposal submission review and selection process for ELC 2026 (Goals 1, 2, 3: Advance, Connect, Elevate)
  - A. We will continue to hone the review process by revising and restoring program tracks and fully implementing our process for matching proposals to reviewer expertise.
3. Academy staff are reviewing options for new conference management software to replace X-CD in 2026. After a preliminary review and screening process, the ELC co-chairs anticipate opportunities to review and test 2 or 3 options and provide input on functionality and fit. The co-chairs will then need to revise our procedures to integrate the functionality of the selected software into our current timeline and workflow.
4. Submission site will open early March through mid-April; exact dates are pending selection and launch of new conference software.
  - A. We will continue to seek input from Academy leadership, including SIGs, and our ACAPT partners regarding key topics and pressing issues in physical therapy education for future conference programming. We are

actively reviewing ELC 2025 participant feedback for suggestions as well.

- B. We will continue to collaborate with the Director of Professional Development and Program Committee on refining the process for identifying and selecting pre-conference programming.
5. ELC Co-chairs Committee Policies and Procedures (Goal 4: Lead)
- A. The committee, Academy board, and Program Committee have identified that existing policies and procedures are outdated and do not accurately describe the functions and processes of the committee. We plan to meet quarterly with the Director of Professional Development and academy Program Committee to collaborate

## JoPTE Report



### 2025 Activities:

#### Journal metrics

1. There has been a 21% increase in the number of submissions for 2025 (262) compared to 2024 (217)
2. Average time to first decision continues to be less than 30 days.

METRIC	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
# of Submissions	262	217	181	151	123	128
Acceptance Rate (%)	29%	29%	33%	31%	39%	32%
# of Papers Published (in an issue)*	43	50	49	47	38	41
Research Reports Published (%)**	83%	72%	73%	70%	63%	71%
Total Reviews Completed	430	399	351	370	386	302

\* Exclusive of editorials, letters to the editor, EduGraphics, erratum

\*\* Exclusive of editorials, letters to the editor, EduGraphics, erratum, position papers, and Cerasoli

METRIC	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Avg days to first decision	29.8	24.0	29.3	40.4	65.1	64.4
Avg days to complete reviews (from the date agreed to review submitted)	10.7	11.0	11.4	11.5	12.9	12.9

1. Resubmit an application to Web of Science: Emerging Source Citation Index (ESCI) in collaboration with our publisher Wolters Kluwer (Goal 3: Elevate)  
We received a request for clarification about our peer review process from the review team. We submitted response via the publisher and are awaiting decision
2. Recruit Editorial Board members who reflect the increasing diversity of the student demographic as well as international JoPTE readership (Goal 1: Advance)

We thank Marisa Birkmeier and Lesley Portney for their service on the Board and welcome new Board members: Carmen Capo Lugo (Universidad Ana G. Méndez, Puerto Rico), Derek Luizzo (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga) and Thomas Gus Almonroeder (Trine University).

Due to the increase in submissions, the Academy has approved two Associate Editor positions for the next 3 years. We thank Diane Jette and Lisa Dutton for agreeing to serve in this capacity.

3. Launch of a JoPTE Editorial Fellowship (Goal 3: Elevate)

JoPTE welcomed applications for a 12-month editorial fellowship that offered fellows the opportunity to learn about journal publishing, peer review, editing, publication decisions, and serving on an Editorial Board. This year's fellow is Melissa Yeung (Bowling Green State University). Melissa has worked closely with the Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Board members, Editorial Management team and our publisher to learn about the process of education research publication.

Applications are now open for the next Editorial Fellow and are due March 31st. Decisions will be rendered in April, and appointments will begin in June 2026.

4. Engage Editorial Board Members to increase the number of "Collections" available on the JoPTE website (Goal 2: Connect)

In 2025, JoPTE added two new Collections ("Competency Based Education" and "EduGraphics") bringing the total number of collections up to nine.

5. Featured Supplements: CSM and ELC Abstracts (Goal 2: Connect)

JoPTE now publishes two supplements annually that include the platform and poster abstracts for CSM and ELC. The CSM 2025 abstracts were published in

supplement alongside the September 2025 issue and the ELC 2025 abstracts will be featured alongside the March 2026 issue.

## 6. Congratulations 2025 Journal of Physical Therapy Education Award Winners.

We are fortunate that two Academy of Education members have provided a mechanism through which we can recognize outstanding contributions to the literature each year. The Editorial Board of the Journal of Physical Therapy Education takes great pleasure in selecting the awardees each year, while gratefully acknowledging these donors. This year we trialed two new processes to increase the efficiency and transparency in selecting the award winners. The annual award winners will be recognized at the Business Meeting in CSM in 2026. (Goal 3: Elevate)

### **The winners of each award are:**

**The Stanford Award** was created by Katherine Shepard, PT, PhD, FAPTA, in honor of her former faculty colleagues at Stanford University to recognize the author(s) of a manuscript containing the most influential educational ideas published in the Journal of Physical Therapy Education for the calendar year. The Stanford Award for 2025 is given to:

Ambler, Steven B.; Burlis, Tamara L.; Clark, B. Ruth; Holtzman, Gregory W.; McGee, Patricia Navarro; Frost, Jody S.; Randolph, Jessica L.; Norton, Barbara J.; Holleran, Carey L. for their manuscript “Development of Domains of Competence and Competencies for Physical Therapist Education”

**The Feitelberg Journal Founders’ Award** was created by Samuel B. Feitelberg, PT, MA, FAPTA in honor of the efforts of the over 100 colleagues whose contributions of time and money created the Journal of Physical Therapy Education, to acknowledge excellence in publication. The Feitelberg Founders Award for 2025 is given to:

Brown, Dawn S.; Edmonds, Chandi for their position paper: “Challenging Anti-Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Laws: A Stand for Moral Courage”

### **Activities to Continue in 2026:**

1. Monitor application to Web of Science: Emerging Source Citation Index (ESCI) in collaboration with our publisher Wolters Kluwer and secure an Impact factor for JoPTE (Goal 3: Elevate)
2. Offer additional opportunities for peer reviewer recruitment and training (Goal 3: Elevate).
3. Develop a rating system for peer review and acknowledge distinguished peer reviewers annually (Goal 3: Elevate).
4. Recruit Editorial Board members who reflect the increasing diversity of the student demographic as well as international JoPTE readership (Goal 1: Advance)
5. Expand the JoPTE Editorial Fellowship (Goal 3: Elevate)
6. Revise the Instructions for Authors and Peer Reviewer Guidelines to increase transparency about the use of AI in the writing and review process (Goal 3: Elevate)

## Nominating Committee Chair Report



### 2025 Activities:

The Nominating Committee has continued to work toward the objectives established to meet Academy Goals 2 and 4 (Connect, Lead).

1. Prepare for nominations from the floor at the Spring Board Meeting, and provide support to SIG Nominating Committees to secure additional candidates for positions that did not have a full slate. (Goal 4: Lead)
2. Establish a group email list of all Nom Com members across SIGs and AoE each year to allow for ongoing sharing of recruitment ideas and strategies (Goal 4: Lead)
3. Completed an 'All Nom Com' virtual meeting early in election cycle (9/23/25) to support onboarding of new SIG NomCom members, review elections timeline, and encourage active recruitment strategies (Goal 4: Lead)
4. Enhanced and expanded our presence at the AoE booth at ELC with handouts or signs, on-site nomination activities, and increased number of NomCom member shifts at the booth to 5 to recruit members for open positions. (Goal 2, 4: Connect, Lead)
5. Worked with AoE staff to ensure all SIG Nom Coms have access to their SIG membership list and prior nominees not elected who might be interested in serving at beginning of the Nomination cycle by working with AoE Executive Director (Goal 4: Lead)
6. Carried forward the rubric for reviewing slate of candidates for next cycle. (Goal 4: Lead)
7. Carried forward the process of a dedicated AoE Nom Com point person for each SIG. (Goal 2, 4: Connect, Lead)
8. Worked with Executive Committee to adjust board and SIG position terms to align with policy and procedures for future election cycles. (Goal 2, 4: Connect, Lead)

**Activities to Continue in 2026:**

1. Prepare for nominations from the floor at the Spring Board Meeting, and provide support to SIG Nominating Committees to secure additional candidates for positions that did not have a full slate. (Goal 4: Lead)
2. Complete an 'All Nom Com' virtual meeting early in election cycle to support onboarding of new SIG NomCom members, review elections timeline, and encourage active recruitment strategies. (Goals 2, 4: Connect, Lead)
3. Continue and enhance our presence at the AoE booth at ELC with handouts or signs, on-site nomination activities, and increase number of NomCom member shifts at the booth to recruit members for open positions. (Goals 2, 4: Connect, Lead)
4. Carry forward the rubric for reviewing slate of candidates for next cycle. (Goal 4: Lead)
5. Carry forward the process of a dedicated AoE Nom Com point person for each SIG. (Goal 2, 4: Connect, Lead)

## CSM Program Committee Report



**REBECCA LEUGERS**  
PT

CSM CO-CHAIR



**FRAN KISTNER**  
PT, PhD

CSM CO-CHAIR



**MICHAEL FURTADO**  
PT, DPT, EdD

CSM CO-CHAIR

### 2025 Activities:

1. Education sessions planned for CSM 2025. (Goal 1: Advance)
2. Collaborated with APTA Events Services, Section Programming Chairs, Academy of Physical Therapy Education staff, and AoE ELC and Director of Professional Development. (Goal 1: Advance)
3. Coordinated peer reviews for educational sessions. (Goal 1: Advance)
4. Attempted to involve AoE SIG leaders/representatives to review programming for CSM 2026. (Goals 2, 3: Connect, Elevate)
5. Coordinated with AoE Research Chair for coordination of AoE Poster and Platform submissions. (Goal 1: Advance)
6. Interviewed and selected new CSM Programming Co-Chair, Michael Furtado for three-year appointment. (Goal 4: Lead)
7. Developed new guidelines for proposal submission to improve transparency of selection process. (Goals 1, 3: Advance, Elevate)

**Activities to Continue in 2026:**

1. Current Co-Chair lead: Rebecca Leugers will complete her term of service in March, Fran Kistner will start year 3 of 3 years of service and will become lead Co-Chair, and Michael Furtado will start year 2 of 3 years of service. (Goal 4: Lead)
2. Currently seeking new CSM Programming Co-Chair; will interview and orient January and February 2026 (replacement for Rebecca Leugers). (Goal 4: Lead)
3. Continue to work with APTA Meeting services to facilitate final planning and coordination of CSM 2026.(Goal 1: Advance)
4. Continue to plan for implementing new proposal guidelines for CSM 2027. (Goal 3: Elevate)
5. Current Co-Chairs and new Co-chair to attend CSM Section Programming Meeting in May for training, updates, and orientation to CSM 2027. (Goal 4: Lead)
6. Prepare for Proposal review for CSM 2027. (Goal 1: Advance)