



# 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

- PTA Honor Society Nominations | **Close June 1**
- Academy Online Community Naming Contest
- FTR Research Grant Applications Open
- CESIG Educational Initiatives
- ELC 2025
- DEIJ Content Experts Needed
- Webinars
  - Save the Date: Admissions Network Virtual Event | June 25
- Student Council Liaison Needed
- Volunteer for the Academy!
- NEW! Education Impact Initiative Project
- SIG Spotlight
- Save The Date: GAMER 2026

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PTA Honor Society Nominations Now Open Nominations Close Sunday, 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.

### PTA 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 & Submit Your Nomination!](#)

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## Academy Online Community Naming Contest



Have you accessed the Academy of Education's new online community via the Academy's web page? It's a great way to connect with other members of the Academy or fellow SIG members. To access the various communities, go to [aptaeducation.org](https://aptaeducation.org) and look under "connect" for "online communities". That will get you there...but we want a more creative name for it, and we want YOU to help us

come up with one! The winning submission will receive an Academy of Education 3/4 zip pullover jacket and national recognition in a subsequent newsletter! Send in your entries by **May 31st**.

[Submit Your Idea](#)



## 2025 Physical Therapy Research Grants

The Foundation for Physical Therapy Research grant portal is now open. Click below for information on the grants open this year.

[Learn More](#)

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## Clinical Education SIG Educational Initiatives



As part of the Academy of Education's "*Education Impact Initiative (EI²)*", the CESIG is excited to offer additional opportunities to sponsor CE SIG members as follows:

3 attendance scholarships – up to \$1000  
for ELC 2025

3 ELC pre-conference course  
registrations – up to \$500

[Apply](#)

[Apply](#)

***Applications will close on June 30th, 2025***

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# ELC 2025

October 17-19 • Kansas City, MO

Sign up using the form below to receive informational updates about the 20th Annual Physical Therapist Education Leadership Conference.

[Sign Up](#)

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## DEIJ Content Experts Needed

The Academy of Education is pleased to announce grant funding for content experts who are interested in creating one or more educational modules for AoE members that would help them develop additional skills in incorporating DEIJ-related concepts into their learning environments across academic, clinical, and program administration settings.

[Learn More](#)

[Apply](#)



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## Save The Date!

Admissions Network Next Virtual Event  
Wednesday | June 25 | 7pm ET

Dr. Nicole Tombers, PT, DPT, is leading the charge in addressing barriers faced by underrepresented students in physical therapy education. A dedicated educator, clinician, and researcher, Dr. Tombers focuses on advancing equity, diversity, and

inclusion—both at the College of St. Scholastica and nationally. Her work supports efforts like the Admissions Network, promoting dialogue on recruitment and holistic admissions in PT and PTA programs.

[Read Full Description](#)

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## Student Council Liaison Needed



The Academy of Education is seeking a student to serve as its representative to the APTA Student Council. The Academy will cover any travel costs associated with the position.

[Apply](#)

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# VOLUNTEER FOR THE ACADEMY!

Contribute to the Academy of Education by volunteering! The following positions are available beginning July 1st:

- Awards Committee Member
- Social Media Coordinator
- JoPTE Social Media Coordinator
- Finance Committee Member
- Professional Development Committee PTA Member
- Two Research Committee Members
- JoPTE Journal Club Chair, Vice Chair, and Board Liaison
- Two Webinar Committee Members

 **APTA Academy of Education.**

For more information on the positions, please review the Policies & Procedures manual or email [volunteerscoordinator@aptaeducation.org](mailto:volunteerscoordinator@aptaeducation.org).

[Learn More](#)

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## NEW! Education Impact Initiative Project



EDUCATION IMPACT  
INITIATIVE

Steven G. Lesh and Michele Valencia are collaborating on a project through the APTA Academy of Education's Education Impact Initiative to highlight innovative DPT/PTA collaborations and professionals with diverse disabilities excelling in education or clinical practice.

We're seeking interested participants in two key areas:

- 1) Unique and innovative DPT/PTA partnerships in education or clinical settings.
- 2) DPT/PTA professionals with diverse disabilities who've mastered educational or clinical environments.

Interested? Share your story by completing the form in the link below. Questions? Reach out—we'd love to connect!

For questions, please email:

[Michele Valencia, PT, DPT](#) or [Steven Lesh PhD, PT, AT Ret](#)

[Share Now!](#)

## SIG SPOTLIGHT



**APTA**  
Academy of Education.

Scholarship  
of Education  
Special Interest Group

The SoESIG shall serve as a resource and forum for individuals who are or have an interest in academic faculty. The Academic Faculty SIG will facilitate networking, mentoring, and sharing of resources for all individuals interested in the roles, responsibilities, teaching, scholarship and service of academic faculty.

SoESIG 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.

For more information on the RFESIG, please get in touch with the Chair:  
**Sarah Gilliland, PT, DPT, PhD.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Mark Your Calendars for our Annual GAMER Workshop:

# GAMER

Grantwriting and Mentorship in Education Research

**January 22-24, 2026**

(Travel days are January 21 and 25, 2026)

**Charleston, South Carolina**

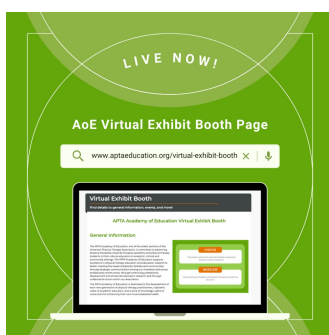
We bring together a nationally recognized multidisciplinary group of mentors and consultants as faculty, including representatives from potential funding sources to support participants work. The workshop provides guidance in developing robust, clear and theoretically grounded research questions, grant 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** if you have any questions.  
[segal@musc.edu](mailto:segal@musc.edu) | [www.gamereducationresearch.com](http://www.gamereducationresearch.com)

# QUICK CLICKS



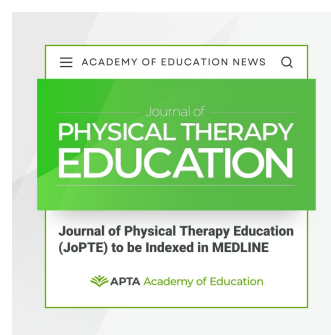
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Journal of Physical  
Therapy Education to be  
Indexed in MEDLINE

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## CURRENT LITERATURE

Check out the latest information and trends in physical therapy educational research on the JoPTE website and follow @JOPTEjournal on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to keep up with newsworthy educational content and publications!

[Read Journal](#)

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