



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:

- Advocacy Network Congressional Update
- CE SIG ELC 2026 Pre-Conference and Conference Scholarship Winners
- *ELC 2025 Abstracts Are Available!*
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **2026 Lynda D. Woodruff Lecture**
Join Us Tomorrow, June 18 at 7pm
 - ELC 2026
 - **ELC PTA Educators SIG Scholarships, deadline June 30**
 - ***Registration is open!***
 - Physical Therapy Faculty Development Workshop (PTFDW)
 - 1/2 Day DCE/ACCE Workshop Spots Available
 - CSM 2027
 - **Call for Abstract Reviewers deadline to volunteer by June 19**
 - Call for Abstracts deadline July 15
 - GAMER 2027 | Registration Opens July 1
 - Foundation for PT Research Education Grant Applications Open
 - NEW! Foundations of Simulation Series
 - Simulation Networking Community Monthly Chats | 12PM EDT
 - July 9
 - August 6
- **Webinar**
 - RFESIG Journal Club | Sept 8 | 8PM
- Welcome to Our New Members!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advocacy Network Congressional Update: Multiple Lawsuits Challenging ED Student Loan Limits Rule



Multiple professional and state stakeholders report significant concern that the U.S. Department of Education's new definition of "professional degree" under the loan-limits rule is inconsistent with congressional intent in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act passed on July 4, 2025. Plaintiffs across several suits describe the rule as arbitrary, capricious, and harmful to advanced-degree students in excluded professions.

Four major lawsuits have been filed:

State Attorneys General Suit (25 states and Washington, D.C.)

- Filed in U.S. District Court of Maryland.
- Claims the Department of Education's degree list contradicts OBBBA's intent; Congress's list was illustrative, not exhaustive. Notes Congress's list has not been updated since the 1950s, predating many modern graduate programs. Alleges Administrative Procedure Act violations: The department relied on improper factors (e.g., supervision, historical context) and applied them inconsistently, including for physical therapy.
- Supported publicly by American Academy of Nursing and Academy of Physician Associates.

Democracy Forward Suit (Filed May 21)

- Plaintiffs: American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, National Education Association, Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.
- Claims the Department of Education exceeded statutory authority by redefining "professional degree." Alleges inconsistent application of the department's own criteria and failure to consider alternatives or broader impacts. Seeks preliminary injunction to block implementation and eventual repeal.

Nursing Organizations Suit (Filed May 29)

- Plaintiffs: 10 national nursing organizations.
- Claims Department of Education used non-statutory categories to exclude advanced nursing degrees. Argues contradictions with OBBBA definitions and APA violations. Asserts the department acted arbitrarily and capriciously.

Physician Associate Suit (Filed June 3)

- Plaintiffs: American Academy of Physician Associates and PA Education Association.
- Claims the Department of Education's imposed unauthorized requirements, narrowing Congress's intended scope of eligible

professions. Requests vacatur of new definitions and explicit recognition of PA degrees as professional degrees.

There is broad, multi-sector legal opposition to the Department of Education's rule. Across all suits, plaintiffs consistently argue that the department exceeded statutory authority, misapplied criteria, and violated the Administrative Procedures Act. The litigation landscape reflects widespread concern that the rule restricts loan access contrary to congressional intent.

Moving forward, the APTA plans to track progress of all four lawsuits and any preliminary injunction rulings, monitor Department of Education responses and potential revisions to the rule, prepare for possible shifts in loan eligibility criteria depending on court outcomes, and continue stakeholder engagement and policy analysis as litigation evolves.

CE SIG ELC 2026 Pre-Conference and Conference Scholarship Winners



The CE SIG is pleased to announce the winners of the AoE Education Impact Initiative (EI2) scholarships.

Pre-Conference Scholarship Recipients:

- Caitlin Keller, PT, DPT
- Heather Riley, PTA
- Cassidy Herringer, PT

ELC Conference Scholarship Recipients:

- Patrick Pham, PT, DPT
- John Lugo PT, DPT
- Katherine Nedved, PT

Congratulations to all the winners!

ELC 2025 Abstracts Now Available

[Read Now!](#)



ELC 2025 ABSTRACTS

ADVANCE. CONNECT.
ELEVATE. LEAD.

Kansas City, MO
OCTOBER 17-19 2025

June 2026 - Volume 40 - S2

[Read Now!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

2026 Lynda D. Woodruff Lecture
Join Us Tomorrow!

2026 LYNDA D. WOODRUFF LECTURE

SEVENTH ANNUAL LECTURE

JOIN US!



JUNE
18TH



7:00 PM
EDT

**TIFFANY ADAMS, PT,
DPT, PhD, MBA**



Immediately following the lecture,
there will be a live panel discussion

Join us tomorrow, June 18 at 7:00 PM ET for the 2026 Lynda D. Woodruff Lecture featuring Tiffany Adams, PT, DPT, PhD, MBA.

In her lecture, "Reclaiming the Soul of the Physical Therapy Profession: The Details That Define Us," Dr. Adams will explore the values, purpose, and defining characteristics that shape our profession.

A live panel discussion will immediately follow the lecture, offering additional insights and opportunities for reflection and conversation.

Don't miss this inspiring event!

RSVP

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

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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

REGISTRATION IS
NOW OPEN
ELC 2026

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



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
ACADEMIC PHYSICAL THERAPY



APTA
Academy of Education



View Our Pre-Conference Workshops

How Did That Go? Mastering the Art of Challenging Debriefings

This pre-conference workshop equips physical therapy educators with advanced debriefing strategies to enhance clinical reasoning, reflection, and practice change across learning environments. Participants will develop skills to effectively facilitate emotionally complex and high-stakes debriefing conversations while maintaining psychological safety and learner engagement. Through interactive learning, attendees will gain tools to confidently navigate challenging moments and elevate the impact of debriefing applicable to simulation, classroom, and clinical learning environments.

Thursday, October 15 | 8 AM - 5 PM

From Principles to Practice: Designing and Implementing Equitable Grading in Physical Therapy Education

This full-day preconference workshop is designed for Physical Therapy Education faculty ready to move from understanding equitable grading principles to changing

grading practices in their courses and programs. The session is co-facilitated by Joe Feldman, author of *Grading for Equity*, whose national scholarship on grading reform informs the session's implementation focus

Thursday, October 15 | 8 AM - 5 PM

Academic Leadership in Higher Education

This ½ day interactive workshop is designed to support academic leaders in Physical Therapy programs at all stages of their leadership journey. The purpose of the workshop is to provide a structured, supportive environment where participants can examine their leadership identity, learn from colleagues' experiences, and develop practical strategies to strengthen team engagement and growth. Through guided reflection, self-assessment activities, peer coaching, case discussions, and panel dialogue, participants will explore how personal leadership behaviors influence faculty dynamics, program culture, and educational outcomes.

Thursday, October 15 | 8 AM - 12 PM

Moving from Concept to Creation in Learning by Concordance (LbC)

Learning by Concordance (LbC) is an instructional strategy designed to develop clinical reasoning in uncertain situations where there is more than one reasonable course of action¹⁻². In LbC, learners and an expert panel work through an ambiguous case scenario with follow-up questions, and judge how new information influences a proposed hypothesis, decision, or action². This half-day pre-conference workshop is designed for educators who want to create and refine LbC activities for use in their own courses and programs. The workshop uses brief direct instruction, guided practice, peer review, and feedback-based revision to support LbC development. Participants will leave with drafted LbC activities aligned with their own teaching contexts. The workshop will also include structured exploration of how artificial intelligence can support LbC development through ideation, question refinement, and feedback. Participants will leave with practical resources, greater confidence in designing LbC activities, and drafted materials to implement in their courses.

Thursday, October 15 | 1 PM - 5 PM

[Register Now!](#)

[Visit ELC Website](#)

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).

[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.**



Call for Abstract Reviewers!



We invite you to participate in the CSM 2027 Abstract Review Process for the Combined Sections Meeting (CSM), taking place February 4–6, 2027, in Philadelphia, PA.



Your time and expertise play an important role in ensuring the quality and success of the conference program.

Reviews will occur online. Each reviewer will have approximately 10-20 abstracts to review in July and August of 2026.

- **Please complete the form by this Friday, June 19, 2026.**
- Please note: volunteering now will automatically include you for the next two years in the recruitment process.

On behalf of Fran Kistner, Michael Furtado, and Jaime Bayzick, CSM Co-chairs, thank you for your assistance.

[Volunteer to Review](#)

CSM Platform and Poster Abstracts Submission Portal Closes July 15



Call For Proposals

[Submit Today](#)



CSM 2027

[Learn More](#)

[Submit An Abstract](#)

GAMER 2027 | Registration Opens July 1!

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@musc.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

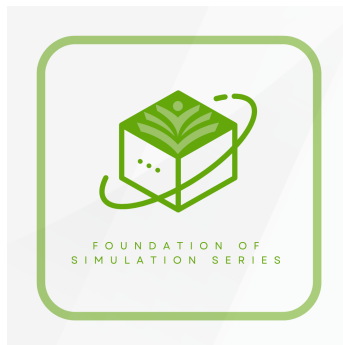
information on the research area and eligibility requirements for this grant. Applications can be found on ProposalCentral.

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](#)

Foundations of Simulation Series



Interested in Adding Simulation to Your Curriculum?

The Simulation Networking Community has developed the Foundations of Simulation Series of brief, free presentations designed to introduce physical therapy educators and clinicians to core concepts in simulation-based learning. This series provides an overview of essential terminology, simulation modalities, delivery methods, pre-briefing and debriefing practices, and the Healthcare Simulation Standards of Best Practice. Participants will gain foundational knowledge and practical resources to support the design,

implementation, and facilitation of simulation experiences across a variety of educational settings.

You can view the series through the Learning Center, access using the button below.

[View Series](#)

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

Meeting ID: 947 3412 5901

Passcode: 751877

Upcoming Meeting:

- **Thursday, July 9**
- August 6

SIMChats Zoom



Save The Date

Sep 8 | [RFE SIG Journal Club](#)

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM EDT



- Rachel Adams, PT
- Katherine Marie Adamski, SPT
- Frank E. Aerts, PT, DSc
- Deidra Anderson, PT, DPT
- Lauren Beatty, DPT
- Maura Bednarcik SPT
- Maquistin Bell, SPT
- Emily L Berry, DPT
- Meredith A Bielefeld, DPT
- Marie Bitticks SPT
- Ellie Bolch, DPT
- Stefanie Bond, PT, DPT
- Noah C Borgemenke, SPT
- Joseph R Bozek, DPT
- Alexa Brown, PT, DPT
- Nikco Brown, PTA
- Lucas M Bruser, SPT
- Caitlin M. Buening, PT
- Kylie Reece Burke SPT
- Kaitlyn D Cain, DPT
- Kara Morris Cain, PT, DPT
- Taylor Campbell, SPT
- Christine Carr, PT, DPT
- James Ben Carter SPT
- Anthony Chen, DPT
- Ashley Chevalier, SPT
- Megan Nicole Christian, PT, DPT
- Derek Anthony Christner, SPT
- Kirk Joseph Clegg-Johnson, PT, DPT, MBA
- Carinna Coleman, PT, MSPT
- shawn H coots, SPT
- Matthew R Crosby SPT
- Gianina DR Cummings, SPT
- Katherine Curtis, PT, DPT
- Mark Danton D, Arezzo, PT, DPT
- Ryan Lastie Jr., DPT
- Johan Lemus Martinez, SPT
- McKenna Catherine Lester, DPT
- Jada Lew, SPT
- Tierney Loveland-Grace, PT, DPT
- Devika Madhu, DPT
- Nicole Marsh, PTA
- Sabien Mason, PT
- Elliot B Mays, PTA
- Micah McLeish, PT, DPT
- John P. McLinden, Sr, PT
- Elena Menker, DPT
- Megan Michaluk, PT
- Mary Mikaelian, SPT
- Marielle Mikos, PT, DPT
- Brianna R Miller SPT
- Jose Miranda, SPTA
- Shane Mitchell, DPT
- Tori Mitchell, SPT
- Matthew B. Montgomery, PT, DPT, MPH
- Taylor K Morris, SPT
- Jazheel Esdras Muller, SPT
- Egoitz Munoz, DPT
- Melinda Jacquelyn Nagel, PT, DPT
- Paula Nelson, PT
- Kennedy Newton, PT, DPT
- Jessie T Nguyen, SPT
- Kali Christine Nordin, PT, DPT, MS
- Delaney OBrien, DPT
- Andrey Okwuasaba SPTA
- Stephen L Pastorelli, SPT
- Margaret Pates, PT
- Caitlyn Pemberton SPT
- Francisco Pena SPT
- Victor J. Pereira, PT, MPT

- Emilia Anne Dingwall, SPT
- Nicole Doerr, SPT
- Angela F. Ebert, PT, DPT, MS
- Cora A Erickson, SPT
- Fiona Evans SPT
- Emilee Farnan, SPT
- Brianna Favela, SPT
- Carson Fawns SPT
- Avindri Onasha Fernando, DPT
- Stephanie Ferrara, DPT
- Shannon M. Fillmore, PT
- Holly Fleming, PTA
- Luca Fornari, SPT
- Alex Fox SPT
- Adriana E Frantz, PT
- Corrine A. Fritcher-Nelson, PT, DPT
- Amber Gadow, PT, DPT
- Johmar Julian B Galapon, SPT
- Nicole Garces Cedeno SPT
- Ella Gaylord, SPT
- Arturo Gonzalez, SPT
- Austin Gordillo, SPT
- Shea Gossett SPT
- Ava Grieshop, SPT
- Alison Guthrie, PT
- Tim Haas SPT
- Kaitlyn Hall, PT
- Nick Hammond SPT
- Sema Hammoud, PT
- Kaitlyn Hanlon, DPT
- Taras Havrachynskyy STP
- Tiana Hess, PT, DPT
- Landon Howard, PT, DPT
- Chidera S Ibewuike, SPT
- Austin D Johnson, PTA
- Christopher M. Juneau, PT, DPT
- Kiandra Kagler, SPTA
- Maria Kalb, DPT
- David Kelley SPT
- Calista Renae Kelly, PT, DPT
- Samantha Koo, DPT
- Stacey Marie Lane, PT, DPT
- Eric Pham, SPT
- Kadence Platt, PTA
- Julia Ryan Priest, SPT
- Rene Ricardo Prieto, SPT
- Deborah Priluck, PT, DPT
- Brittney Nichole Rae, PT, DPT
- Danielle C. Rayder, PT, DPT
- Alisa Rendina SPT
- Taylor Rendina SPT
- Patricia M. Rivera Vega, SPT
- Carlos Alejandro Rodriguez SPT
- William Santana, PT, DPT
- Abigail R Schlegel, DPT
- Jill Denise See, PT, DPT
- Joelle Selhorst, SPT
- Evyonne Nicole Shakir, PT, DPT
- Logan R Shelley, PT
- Maybelle Singson, PT, DPT
- Colin Smith, PTA
- Gavin Snyder, SPTA
- Samantha Speights, SPTA
- Matthew Gybbon Spilsbury, PT, DPT
- Justin Stauffer, PTA
- Morgan Ann Stauver, SPT
- Jiahui Sun SPT
- Jermain McNeel Tezeno, PT, DPT, OTR/L
- Emily Tomlinson, PT, DPT
- Brandon Michael Trigo, SPT
- Vicki Maria Tysseling, PT, PhD
- Katrina M. Van Ostrand, PT, MPT
- John Thomas VanWey Jr, PT
- Nathaniel Villalba, DPT
- Kerry E. Walsh, PT, DPT
- Jared D Webb SPT
- Vanessa Wellman, DPT
- Kathryn M Weniger, PTA
- Tyler Dean Wisler, SPTA
- Ayshia LynnMarie Woods, DPT
- Stacie Yamamoto, SPT
- Matthew Zaudtke, PT, DPT, ATC
- Victor Zheng, SPT



Welcome to APTA Academy of Education! We hope that through your membership, you'll find your place in a community of life-long learners

dedicated to the education of patients, students, colleagues, and communities.

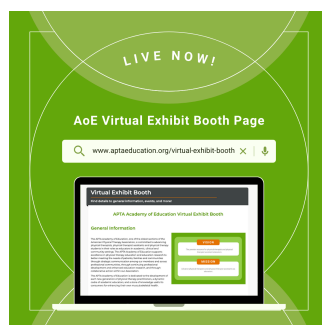
Top benefits of Membership in the Academy:

1. Discounts on section conferences like:
 - [Combined Sections Meeting](#)
 - [Education Leadership Conference](#)
 - [Physical Therapy Faculty Development Workshop](#)
 - [Academy Webinars](#)
2. Well established [Special Interest Groups](#) to meet member needs.
3. Networking and opportunity for Academy [funding and awards](#).

Please know that we are here to serve you and are happy to assist you in any way possible. Education is the future of our profession and here in the APTA Academy of Education, "Every PT and PTA is an Educator."

Visit us at <http://www.aptaeducation.org>.

QUICK CLICKS



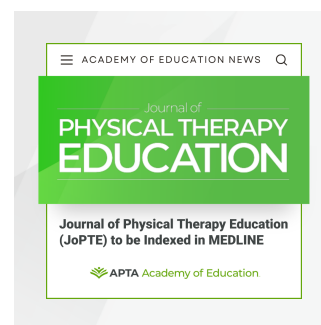
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CURRENT LITERATURE

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!

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