



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

- Federal Affairs Liaison Update
- FPTR Research Grant Applications Open
- CESIG Educational Initiatives
- ELC 2025
- DEIJ Content Experts Needed
- Webinars
 - **RSVP Now!** | *Admissions Network Virtual Event | June 25*
- NEW! Education Impact Initiative Project
- SIG Spotlight
- Save The Date: GAMER 2026

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Academy of Education Federal Affairs Liaison Update



H.R. 1:
One Big Beautiful Bill Act was passed by the House on 5/22/25 by a vote of 215-214.
The bill now goes to the Senate.

Four items to highlight from H.R. 1:

1. Medicaid: \$700 billion in cuts due to new work/community engagement requirements.

2. Medicare Fee Schedule: enacts new annual payment increase based on the Medicare Economic Index (75% of MEI for 2026, 10% of MEI for 2027 on).
3. Student loans: government subsidies paid on loan interest eliminated in 2026. Grad PLUS loans eliminated for new borrowers in 2026.
4. No tax on overtime: deduction for overtime pay for hourly, nonexempt employees.

Regarding Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Department of Education: IDEA cannot be repealed or eliminated through an executive order, but there are questions whether it will stay under the Department of Education or move back to the Department of Health and Human Services.

In March, the President signed an executive order to eliminate the Department of Education and nearly 2,000 employees were laid off. On Thursday 5/22/25, a federal judge blocked the executive order and ordered the agency reinstate employees who were fired in the mass layoffs. The administration plans to challenge this ruling.

Numerous lawsuits have been filed regarding the executive order regarding NIH funding. In the meantime, many NIH grants have been cancelled or delayed.



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](#)

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

3 ELC pre-conference course

[Apply](#)

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Applications will close on June 30th, 2025

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](#)

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](#)

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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 and RSVP](#)

The APTA Academy of Education created an Admissions Network within the AFSIG. ***Sign up as a member of the admissions network, if you aren't already!***

[Sign Up!](#)

NEW! Education Impact Initiative Project



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



The Academic Faculty SIG 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.

AFSIG Objectives:

- Provide a mechanism for encouraging and enhancing communication among academic faculty and those interested in academic faculty.
- Facilitate and increase opportunities for academic faculty development and mentoring.
- Create and promote mechanisms for academic faculty to participate in the APTA Academy of Education.
- Serve as a resource body on issues related to academic faculty.
- Promote cooperative efforts among academic faculty.

For more information on the AFSIG, please get in touch with the Chair:
Derek Liuzzo 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

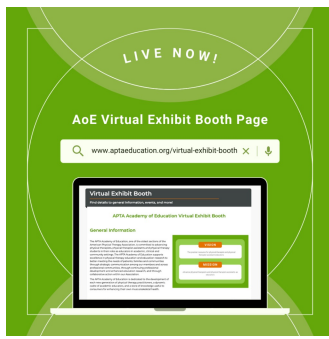
We bring together a nationally recognized multidisciplinary group of mentors and consultants as faculty, including representatives from potential funding sources to support participants work. The workshop provides guidance in developing robust, clear and theoretically grounded research questions, grant 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 | www.gamereducationresearch.com

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CURRENT LITERATURE

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