



# 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:
  - 20th Annual ELC 2025 | **Registration Open!**
    - **Overflow Hotel Information!**
  - PTA Educators Book Club | *Coming Soon!*
  - Thank You APTA Academy Volunteers
  - New! CE SIG Short Survey | We Want to Hear From You!
  - FPTR Research Grant Applications Open
  - DEIJ Content Experts Needed
  - Education Impact Initiative Project
- SIG Spotlight
  - Interprofessional Education and Practice SIG
- Upcoming Events:
  - GAMER 2026 | **Registration Open!**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

# ELC 2025

October 17-19 • Kansas City, MO

Don't miss your chance to save! The **early bird deadline** for the 2025 Physical Therapy Education Leadership Conference (ELC) is fast approaching.

[Register](#)

## The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center Overflow Hotel



Rooms are filling up quickly for ELC 2025, our overflow hotel is now available. Attendees can book at The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center at a special group rate of \$199 per night for stays between October 14–20, 2025. The last day to book at this rate is Monday, September 22, 2025.

[Reserve Your Room!](#)

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## PTA Educators Book Club | Coming Soon!



PTA Educators—get ready for our upcoming Fall Book Club! Supported by an Academy Education Impact Initiative Grant, 100 members will receive a free copy of *Learning That Lasts: A Guide for Health Professions Students Who Want to Maximize their Learning* and take part in a virtual book club throughout the fall semester. Registration opens in August, with a kick-off Zoom meeting in October. You must be a member of both the Academy and the PTA Educators SIG to participate. Stay tuned for more details!

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**Thank You to Academy APTA Volunteers!**

The Academy of Education would like to thank its delegates to the APTA House of Delegates: Chief Delegate Vicki LaFay, Second Delegate Andrew Wilcox and Alternate Delegate Jaime Gonzalez, as well as our APTA PTA Council Representative Shannon Simpson for attending the APTA Leadership Congress over the past week in Washington, DC.



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## New! Clinical Education SIG Survey

The Academy of Education Clinical Education Special Interest Group (SIG) is currently conducting a needs assessment to better understand the professional development opportunities and recognition needs of clinical faculty serving as Clinical Instructors for Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) and Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) students. Please take a moment to fill out the survey.

[Take the Survey](#)



## 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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## 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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# 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.

Interprofessional  
Education and Practice  
Special Interest Group

The Interprofessional Education and Practice Special Interest SIG shall serve as a resource and forum for individuals who have professional concerns for the coordination, implementation, and evaluation of clinical education for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. Both academic and clinical faculty are welcome!

IPEP Objectives:

- Foster networking and collaboration among physical therapists and physical therapist assistants interested in IPE and IPCP
- Engage in initiatives that support IPE and IPCP innovation in physical therapist and physical therapist assistant education
- Foster a culture of innovation, intellectual engagement, and leadership in the Academy of Education to support IPE and IPCP endeavors
- Facilitate excellence in IPE education through collaboration with external IPE organizations
- Disseminate information related to interprofessional collaborative practice to the physical therapy community in coordination with the Academy of

For more information on the IPEP, please get in touch with:

Chair: [Kimberly Beran-Shepler](#)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Our Annual GAMER Workshop Registration is Now Open!

# 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.*

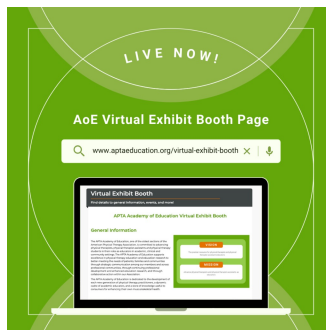
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Please contact [Rick Segal](#) if you have any questions.  
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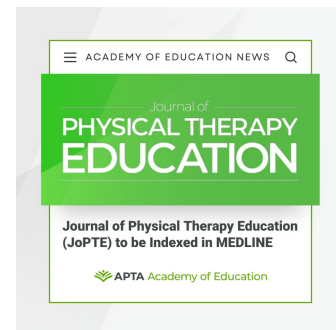
# QUICK CLICKS



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Journal of Physical  
Therapy Education to be  
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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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