



# 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

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- Excellence in Education Consultant
- Collaborative for PT Education Volunteers Needed!
- ***Join the Academy's Leadership!***
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- Call for Research Grant Proposals and Award Nominations Now Open!
- PTA Honor Society Nominations Open
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*What Can You Expect?*
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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Call for ELC Chair



The Education Leadership Conference (ELC) Committee is seeking a volunteer chair from the Academy of Education to serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2026.

Apply and submit your CV and statement of interest by Friday, October 31. The ELC chairs will conduct interviews with applicants in December.

Apply

Please direct any questions about the position to:  
[aoe-execdir@aptaeducation.org](mailto:aoe-execdir@aptaeducation.org)

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## Excellence in Education Consultant

The APTA Academy of Education Board of Directors is accepting applications now through **Friday, September 12**, for a consultant for its Excellence in Education certificate program.

- Review and potentially update the process for selecting and vetting content creators
  - Establish timelines for completion
  - Clearly communicate expectations
  - Set deadlines
- Review and potentially update the process for selecting and vetting peer reviewers
  - Establish timelines and deadlines
  - Create a peer reviewer rubric
- Create a process for identifying mentors
  - Experience required
  - Expectations
- Communicate with current content creators on status of modules while a permanent program director is being sought
- Provide a semi-monthly report to the Academy of Education Executive Committee

Consultant should be available to start Wednesday, October 1, and will be retained through December 31, with an option to extend based on need. Consulting fee will be \$2500.

Please submit your CV and letter of interest highlighting your experience and qualifications.

Submit Your Application

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## Collaborative for PT Education

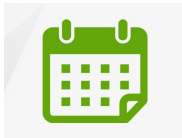
# Volunteers Needed!

The Collaborative for Physical Therapy Education, a member engagement group of APTA, has developed six subcommunities within the [APTA Community](#) to encourage focused discussion and engagement on each of the six pillars from [A Vision for Excellence in Physical Therapy Education](#) and their associated guiding principles.

As a participating organization of the collaborative that has an interest in the pillars below, the Academy of Education has been invited to appoint 1-2 members of our organization to participate in each of these focused discussion groups:



- Accessibility of Education
- Collaboration and Networks
- Competency-Based Education
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Education Research and Data Management
- Infrastructure, Capacity, and Faculty Development



Deadline to apply is Friday, September 17

**Take Initiative and Volunteer**

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## Join the Academy's Leadership!



Academy of Education Leadership Nominations are open now through Saturday, November 1! If you or someone you know would make a great leader, [click here](#) to learn more.

All terms are for three years and begin July 1, 2026.

**Nominate A Leader**

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## September Student-Led Flash Action Strategy



We're gearing up for one of APTA's most impactful student-led advocacy events, [APTA Flash Action Strategy](#), and we still need your help!

We're looking for student leaders to serve as APTA Flash Action Strategy Point People, promoting the event among their peers. This is a great leadership opportunity and an easy way for students to get involved in advocacy. Interested students should send their name, program and email address to [Laura Keivel, Senior Specialist, Grassroots & Political Affairs](#) by **Wednesday, September 10**. All material, social

media graphics, sample posts, short template PowerPoint, will be provided.

## About APTA Flash Action Strategy

It's a two-day nationwide social media event where PT and PTA students speak with one voice on key legislative issues. This year's focus is the [SAFE Act \(Stopping Addiction and Falls for the Elderly Act, H.R. 1171/S. 2612\)](#).

## Important Dates

Virtual Kickoff: Tuesday, September 16, 8:00 pm ET

APTA Flash Action Strategy Days: September 17–18

Point Person Responsibilities

Deliver a short (≤10 min) presentation or show a brief video to classmates.

Encourage participation in the kickoff and social media activity.

Work with faculty/staff to spread the word.

Bonus: Participation counts toward the [APTA Student Advocacy Challenge](#), giving students extra incentive to get involved.



*Thank you for helping us empower the next generation of advocates.  
Let's make the 2025 APTA Flash Action Strategy the most impactful yet!*



## Call for Research Grant Proposals Deadline: Tuesday, October 21

Research grants are available to assist APTA Academy of Education members in conducting research that investigates a question of importance to the advancement of education in physical therapy. In addition to research related to physical therapy education (DPT, PTA), questions related to the education of patients/clients, licensed PTs/PTAs or PT/PTA students will also be considered.

### Research Grant

These grants continue to provide proposers potential financial resources of up to \$25,000 for larger projects with a with an experienced research team. Proposals for the larger grants continue to require that the proposal demonstrate that the project can be completed within one year and that the research team has the requisite experience and expertise to achieve success.

### Small Seed Grant

These small grants are intended to support the work of new and aspiring scholars pursuing financial resources of up to \$10,000 to support smaller or pilot projects. These small grants can also be used to provide financial resources for planned larger projects that need to gather pilot data. In either case, grant applicants need to demonstrate how the project is investigating a question of importance to the advancement of education in physical therapy and situate the proposal within a larger research objective.

[Learn More and Apply](#)



## Call for Award Nominations

### Deadline: Wednesday, October 15

The Awards Committee is pleased to announce the call for nominations for APTA Academy of Education Awards. Members are urged to consider these opportunities for themselves and for their colleagues.

#### **Adopt-A-Doc Scholarship Award**

Reflects the Academy's commitment to increase the number of doctoral prepared faculty teaching in PT and PTA education programs.

#### **Award for Leadership in Education**

Is the highest honor given by the Academy and recognizes an individual who is widely recognized as a leader in physical therapy education.

#### **Polly Cerasoli Lectureship Award**

Acknowledges an individual who exemplifies the passion and commitment to the advancement of physical therapy education modeled by Dr. Polly Cerasoli.

#### **Distinguished Educator in Physical Therapist Education Award**

Honors an individual who exemplifies excellence in academic or clinical teaching.

#### **Distinguished Educator in Physical Therapist Assistant Education Award**

Honors an individual who exemplifies excellence in academic or clinical teaching.

#### **Distinguished Mentor in Residency/Fellowship Education Award**

Recognizes excellence in Residency/Fellowship mentoring.

#### **Education Professional Service Award**

Recognizes significant service to the APTA Academy of Education

#### **Outstanding Clinical Instructor Award**

Recognizes an outstanding clinical instructor who demonstrates exceptional skills in teaching, communication, interpersonal relationships, professional competence, mentoring, modeling, and professionalism.

#### **Outstanding Site Coordinator for Clinical Education Award**

Recognizes an outstanding Site Coordinator for Clinical Education (SCCE) who consistently demonstrate exceptional skills in the supervision and education of Clinical Instructors through mentoring as well as serving as a role model for Clinical Education.

#### **President's Award**

Honors an individual who has provided exemplary service or noteworthy contributions in advancing the vision, mission or goals of the APTA Academy of Education.

*Individuals who are current members of the Academy of Physical Therapy Education Board of Directors, the APTA Board of Directors, or APTA Staff are not eligible for these awards and may not participate in the nomination process.*

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## PTA Honor Society Nominations Open

### Deadline: October 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.

#### 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

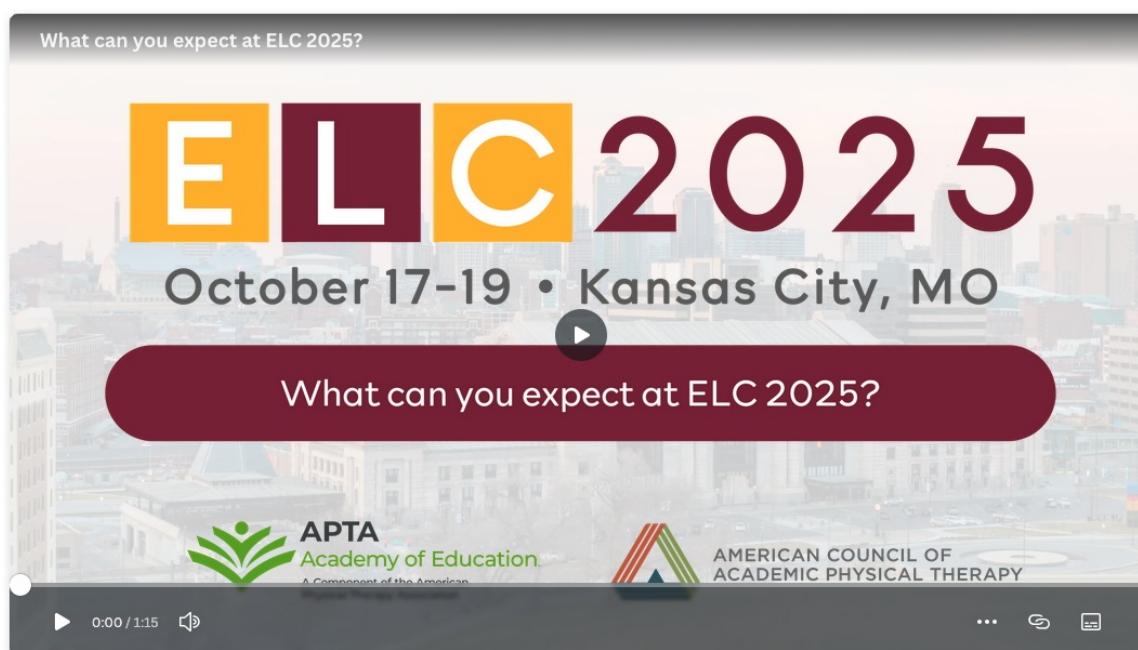


# ELC 2025

October 17-19 • Kansas City, MO

Are you planning to join us for ELC this year? We're so excited to welcome you to one of the most anticipated gatherings in education leadership. Whether this will be your very first **ELC** or you've joined us many times before, we know there's always a mix of excitement and questions as the conference draws near.

Please enjoy this short welcome video from Academy of Education *President Vicki LaFay* and ACAPT *President Kimberly Varnado*, and look for more videos as ELC approaches to help maximize your ELC experience!



[Register](#)

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**Call For Volunteers for ELC!**



As we prepare for the upcoming ELC 2025, we are reaching out to our community for volunteers to assist throughout the conference. Your support is crucial in ensuring a smooth and successful event.

We are seeking volunteers to help with various tasks, including registration and moderating Platform and MicroLearn sessions. If you are interested and available to contribute, please sign up using this Google Sheet: [ELC VOLUNTEER SIGN UP](#). Your participation as a volunteer is greatly appreciated. Closer to the conference dates, we will reach out to confirm your availability and provide further details regarding your volunteer assignment.

Thank you in advance for supporting ELC 2025. Should you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact Mary Beth Holmes [mbholmes@bu.edu](mailto:mbholmes@bu.edu)

[Volunteer!](#)

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

[Register](#)

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## Call for Academy Booth Volunteers

Volunteering at the booth is a fun, easy way to provide service to the Academy as you get to know fellow attendees who stop by the booth. You don't have to be an Academy "expert", as we'll provide answers to FAQs from other years. Consider signing up with a colleague or PT/PTA school classmate - it's a great way to find an hour for catching up during the busy ELC schedule.

[Exhibit Booth Sign Up](#)

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# Education Research Consulting Session at ELC 2025

The Scholarship of Education (SoE) SIG is hosting another education research consulting session at ELC on Friday October 17 during the lunch break at ELC in Kansas City.

This is a short term mentoring session. We will have consultants with experience in a variety of areas of educational research and you can use this time to meet with them and discuss your ideas, questions etc. The room will be set up in round tables and the consultants will have signs indicating areas of expertise.

**We are currently seeking both consultants and participants.**



You do not have to be an "expert" in your field, you simply need to have SOME experience with conducting and presenting/ publishing educational research.

**Consultant Sign Up**



For researchers looking for guidance, advice, or short term mentoring.

**Researcher Sign Up**

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## GAMER Deadline Extended to: Monday, September 8

### GAMER

Grantwriting and Mentorship in Education Research

**January 22-24, 2026**

(Travel days are January 21 and 25, 2026)

**Charleston, South Carolina**

***Applications open July 1, 2025 and close August 15, 2025***

***Application Deadline extended until September 8, 2025***

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](mailto:segal@musc.edu) if you have any questions

[www.gamereducationresearch.com](http://www.gamereducationresearch.com)



## Higher Education Leaders Town Hall



The Academy of Education is hosting two Town Halls to explore how the Academy can create community and help foster career advancement for faculty members who are serving in, or who desire to move into, more advanced leadership roles within academia from department chair through president.

These webinars are opportunities to better understand your thoughts and share ideas around how the Academy can support this effort and how you can be involved going forward.

### Town Hall 1

For Department Chairs and More Senior Roles  
Monday | September 22 | 4:30 - 5:30 PM ET

[Register](#)

### Town Hall 2

For Program Directors Interested in **Future** Senior Roles  
Friday | September 26 | 2:30 - 3:30 PM ET

[Register](#)

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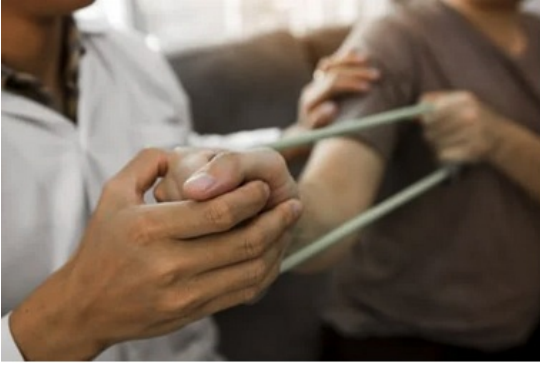
## National Study Examining Excellence and Value in Physical Therapist Residency Education SIG (RFESIG)

**Thursday | September 11 | 8pm-9pm ET**

Discussion led by:

*Dr. Matthew Briggs, PT, DPT, PhD, AT*  
*Dr. Raine Osborne, PT, DPT, EdD*

.1 CEUs



Free for Academy of Education members  
\$25 for non-members

This RFESIG Academy of Education Journal Club is a live, interactive session that explores the national **PT-REV** study on excellence and value in residency education. Dr. Matthew Briggs and Dr. Raine Osborne, co-lead authors of the study, will present key findings and facilitate dialogue on actionable strategies for enhancing post-professional education. Open to RFESIG members and the broader community, this session offers opportunities for knowledge sharing, professional development, and reflection on residency best practices. CEUs available upon completion of assessment.

[Register](#)

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## Physical Therapist Assistant Educators SIG Fall 2025 Teaching & Networking Communities



*Are you ready to make connections and build your network?*

Sign up for the PTA Educators SIG Fall 2025 Teaching & Networking Communities. The networking sessions will begin the week of September 29, 2025.

Networking topics include: Administration/Clinical Education and Teaching and Learning.

**Sign-up ends on Monday, September 15, 2025, so don't wait!**

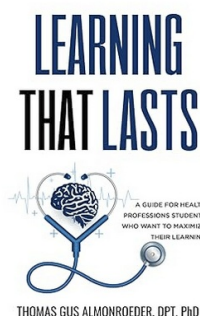
*Please note:* Registrants must be AoE AND PTAE SIG members and PTA educators (academic or clinical). Sign up now! Don't miss this great opportunity!

[Sign Up](#)

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## Physical Therapist Assistant Educators SIG (PTAESIG) Virtual Book Club

Engage with peers, deepen your understanding of teaching approaches, and enhance your learning strategies!



**Register**

**Book: Learning That Lasts: A Guide for Health Professions Students Who Want to Maximize Their Learning**

- Book will be provided FREE to the first **100** members
- Register by Sept 10

**Virtual meetings**

- 2 large group meetings and 6 small group meetings
- 2 chapters covered per session.
- Members must commit to attend 4/6 meetings

**Kick-off** (choose one)

- Wednesday, October 8, 1:00 pm ET
- Wednesday, October 8, 8:00 pm ET

**Weekly Small Group Meetings**

- Weekly meetings between kick-off and wrap-up
- Dates TBD members during kick-off meetings

**Wrap-up** (choose one):

- Thursday, December 4, 1:00 pm ET
- Thursday, December 4, 8:00 pm ET

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



### Kirsten Potter, PT, DP, MS

Tufts University  
Department of Rehabilitation Science  
Doctor of Physical Therapy - Seattle

## APTA Academy of Education Volunteer/Leadership Position(s)

Director of Professional Development

### Why do you volunteer/serve in a leadership position with the Academy of Education? Why should other members volunteer?

I volunteer with the Academy because I am passionate about supporting faculty development and advancing excellence in teaching and learning, while connecting with and mentoring colleagues. Serving on the Board of Directors allows me to contribute at a higher level and help shape initiatives that have a lasting impact on our academic community. I encourage others to get involved, as it's a meaningful way to support the Academy and enhance the educational experience for our students. The Board and leadership team are also welcoming, supportive, and fun to work with!

### What is your favorite memory with the Academy of Education?

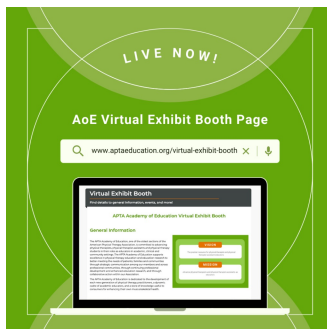
I truly enjoy teaching in the New Faculty Development Workshops because this allows me to collaborate with an amazing team of facilitators and connect with new colleagues and welcome them into the academic community. I find it rewarding to support new faculty as they develop their identities as educators and begin shaping their own careers in the academy.

### Tell us your hobbies or a fun fact about yourself:

I love cooking and completed a 9-week "pro-chef" series that was fun but challenging and required a growth mindset!

The Academy of Education **Thanks You!**

## QUICK CLICKS



Check out our  
Virtual Exhibit Booth!

[Learn More](#)



Participate in your  
Colleagues' Research

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Journal of Physical  
Therapy Education to be  
Indexed in MEDLINE

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