



GSU Master of Occupational Therapy Students to Present at State Conference

Congratulations to five **Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT)** student groups who recently presented findings from their research projects during a poster presentation at GSU. In a first-ever occurrence, each of the student groups' posters has been accepted for presentation at the Illinois Occupational Therapy Association (ILOTA) Annual Conference, scheduled for October 24-26 in Peoria.

To have each of the presentations accepted for the state conference is quite an accomplishment, according to Dr. Catherine Brady, Ed.D., OTR/L, Interim Occupational Therapy Department Chair and Associate Professor, since each poster underwent a rigorous jury process.

Addressing the students just prior to their presentations, College of Health and Human Services Dean Elizabeth Cada, Ed.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, an occupational therapist herself, expressed admiration for the students' "focus on good, evidence-based OT practice throughout their research in order to achieve the best outcomes" for the client.

"As OTs, we can benefit others by empowering them with our information, helping them come to new solutions, better solutions. ... You have a lot to offer," Dean Cada told the students.

The five research projects, and their student presenters, include:

- **Early Childhood Educators' Perceptions of Children with Sensory Processing Dysfunction within Classroom Settings**
Student presenters: Melanie Cabeen, Nicole Copalello, Carla Foreman, Matt Medley, Brandon Onuselogu and Kelly Picken
- **Parents' Ability to Generate Strategies to Facilitate Participation in Home and Community Activities in Children with Disabilities**
Student presenters: Erin Haenig, Holly Moloney, Lindsey Shinnick, Amanda Suenkens and Alicia Tuuk
- **NBCOT Exam Study Strategies Used by Recent MOT Graduates**
Student presenters: Bria Mays, Abby Sprague, Meghan Quinn, Christine Malmer and Loren Buckley
- **Perceptions of Cultural Competency Among Students in the College of Health and Human Services**
Student presenters: Laura Beck, Michele Blidy, Tiffani Grant and Sara Smit
- **Occupational Therapy Faculty Perceptions of Active Student Participation within the Classroom Context**
Student presenters: Joe Beck, Catherine Estrada, Bernadette Okrasinski and Logan Savage

Occupational Therapy faculty research advisors for the students' work include Dr. Divya Sood, Dr. Caren Schranz, Dr. Catherine Brady, Dr. Melanie Ellexson, Dr. Cynthia Carr and Professor Patti Kalvelage.