



# Development of Educational Resources for The Illinois Occupational Therapy Association Pre-OT Mentorship Program

## Claudia Maloberti, OTDS

### Huntington University Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program



#### Project Description & Sites

**Areas of Study:** Education, Advocacy, Leadership  
**Population:** Prospective occupational therapy students and pre-OT students.  
**Site:** Illinois Occupational Therapy Association  
**Description:** My doctoral capstone focused on advocating for increased diversity among prospective students. Throughout my project, I contributed to the Illinois Occupational Therapy Association's Pre-OT Mentorship Program through the creation of educational resources for pre-OT students.

#### Mission & Vision Statements

**Project Mission Statement:** To promote occupational therapy and increase awareness of the profession as a potential career.  
**Project Vision Statement:** To create opportunities for students throughout the state of Illinois to interact with occupational therapy professionals to promote leadership and advocacy in the field of occupational therapy.

#### Needs Assessment | Literature Review

**Needs Assessment:** I consulted with my expert mentor and other practitioners about the need for educational materials to support the Pre-OT Mentorship Program. Considering the vast diversity among clients, groups, and populations that occupational therapists interact with, understanding the need to diversify the profession is important.

**Literature Review:** According to the AOTA Workforce salary survey (2019), "3.1% of practicing occupational therapists are African American/Black, 3.2% are Hispanic/Latinx, and 85.3% are Caucasian/White" (p.7). A study completed by Collins & Carr (2018) examined barriers to considering occupational therapy as a career path. The most commonly cited reasons for not choosing occupational therapy were the lack of awareness, knowledge, and exposure to the field.

The current literature reflects that there needs to be better strategies and programs in place to recruit and retain students of diverse backgrounds to diversify the practitioners in our profession. The profession needs to be accessible to those who want to pursue occupational therapy as a career path.

#### Christ | Scholarship | Service

**Philippians 2:4:** Not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.  
**Proverbs 3:27:** Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

#### Project Completion and Outcomes

- ❖ **Outcome Measure 1:** The student demonstrated an understanding of the role of an educator through the creation of a curriculum for mentors and mentees through middle and high school.
- ❖ **Related Learning Objectives:** The student demonstrated increased knowledge in curriculum development as measured by creating an outline of articles/texts focusing on curriculum design.
- ❖ **Outcome Measure 2:** The student demonstrated an in-depth understanding of the qualities of a leader through the creation of educational leadership resources.
- ❖ **Related Learning Objectives:** The student demonstrated increased knowledge of leadership principles as measured by the completion of at least 1 leadership continued education course.
- ❖ **Outcome Measure 3:** In order to develop an in-depth knowledge of current advocacy efforts for occupational therapy, the student created a qualitative research survey that was able to give info and detail regarding the need for increased advocacy for OT as a career choice.
- ❖ **Related Learning Objectives:** The student created an in-service to be provided to OTPs & students for the purposes of increasing awareness of DEI efforts.

#### Deliverables

- ❖ **Deliverable 1:** Curriculum articles outline
- ❖ **Deliverable 2:** Qualitative Survey
- ❖ **Deliverable 3:** Educational Resources for the mentorship program
- ❖ **Deliverable 4:** Leadership resources for current OT students
- ❖ **Deliverable 5:** In-service presentation for OT students
- ❖ **Deliverable 6:** Certificate(s) of completion



#### Future Implications for OT

- ❖ **Impact on OT:** The educational modules included foundational information about the field of occupational therapy and will be available as a free resource for students interested in pursuing occupational therapy as a career path. The resources will improve accessibility to the field of occupational therapy for students of diverse backgrounds and provide support during the application process.

❖ **Student may be contacted at** [maloberticlaudia@gmail.com](mailto:maloberticlaudia@gmail.com)

KEY REFERENCES \* Full reference list and image reference list available upon request

\*Full reference list and image reference list available upon request