

8-17-2013

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Recommended Citation

Office of Marketing and Communications, "GSU Master of Occupational Therapy Students to Present Research at State Conference" (2013). *Press Releases*. Paper 682.
http://opus.govst.edu/press_releases/682

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For Immediate Release

**GSU Master of Occupational Therapy Students
to Present Research at State Conference**

University Park, IL, August 17, 2013 – Five separate groups of **Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT)** students from Governors State University who submitted poster presentations were selected to present findings from their research projects 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, Interim Occupational Therapy Department Chair and Associate Professor, since each poster underwent a rigorous jury process.

College of Health and Human Services Dean Elizabeth Cada, 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.

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

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, Manhattan
Nicole Copalello, Beecher
Carla Foreman, Chicago
Matt Medley, Valparaiso, IN
Brandon Onuselogu, Chicago
Kelly Picken, Orland Park

- **Parents' Ability to Generate Strategies to Facilitate Participation in Home and Community Activities in Children with Disabilities**

Student presenters:

Erin Haenig, Bourbonnais
Holly Moloney, Hanover Park
Lindsey Shinnick, Oak Lawn
Amanda Suenkens, Orland Hills
Alicia Tuuk, Lansing

- **NBCOT Exam Study Strategies Used by Recent MOT Graduates**

Student presenters:

Bria Mays, Chicago
Abby Sprague, Bourbonnais
Meghan Quinn, Chicago
Christine Malmer, Bourbonnais
Loren Buckley, Lansing

- **Perceptions of Cultural Competency Among Students in the College of Health and Human Services**

Student presenters:

Laura Beck, Chicago
Michele Blidy, Oak Forest
Tiffani Grant, Flossmoor
Sara Smit, South Holland

- **Occupational Therapy Faculty Perceptions of Active Student Participation within the Classroom**

Context

Student presenters:

Joe Beck, Chicago Heights
Catherine Estrada, Darien
Bernadette Okrasinski, Homer Glen
Logan Savage, Norwalk