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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