



DOWNSTATE
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY



The Downstate Occupational Therapy Program thanks our clinical educators for creating valuable learning experiences that enable our students to become competent therapists.

Program Activities 2022-2023:

- Enrollment: 36 students currently enrolled in our program
- Annual review course for NBCOT : January 2023

Faculty Achievements:

Efekona Nuwere, Ed.D, OTR/L: Joined the SUNY Downstate Occupational Therapy Program as Chair in June 2022. Currently serves in an appointed position on AOTA's Commission on Education as an academic fieldwork coordinator representative. His research focuses on older adult health promotion, disability perspectives, and fieldwork education.

Krystal Brewington, OTD, OTR/L, CPAM, CHT: Specializes in upper extremity conditions and hand therapy. She is a SUNY diversity mentor. Guest speaker for COTAD Chapter at SUNY Downstate Black History Month Donuts & Discussion on Black Self-Care. Presented to the SUNY Downstate Pathology Department on ergonomics and work-related injury prevention.

T'Shura Brown, OTD, OTR/L, BCCS: Joined the Downstate team as a full-time faculty member in February 2022. Served as the Interim Chair during the accreditation renewal process before transitioning to the coordinator for Level I fieldwork placement. Received Credentialed Leader in Academia (CLA) from AOTA Academic Leadership Institute and Leadership in Academia certificate from SUNY Leadership Summer Retreat. Assistant Professor in Specialization in Early Intervention Program at SUNY Downstate.

Brigitte Desport, DPS, OTR/L, BCP, ATP: Board of Director in AOTA; Board Member in National Perinatal Association. Dr. Desport is a specialist in early intervention with a concentration in premature infancy.

Nancy Kline, PhD, OTR, BCG: Participated in Grant Activities-BRIDGE Grant-Brooklyn Initiative to Develop Geriatrics Education. She was a guest lecturer in Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship Program SUNY Downstate, Geriatric Clerkship Program SUNY Downstate, and in the School of Public Health, SUNY Downstate. Renewed Board Certification in Gerontology 2027, and renewed LSVT BIG Certification 2024. Item writer for the Board Certification in Gerontology Exam 2022-2025. Serves on the Editorial Review Board for Disability and Rehabilitation Journal.

Vikram Pagpatan, Ed.D, OTR/L, ATP, BTP, CLA, BCCS, BCTS, CAS: President of the Association of Asian American Pacific Islander Occupational Therapy Association (AAPIOT). Serves as the SUNY Downstate OT program's SOTA/COTAD Chapter faculty advisor. AOTA Board Director. SUNY University Faculty Senate Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee member.. Co-editor and Author of the Contemporary Cases in Occupational Therapy Practice: Guiding Critical Thinking for Students. Chapter author- The Texture of Life: Occupations and Related Activities.

Richard Sabel, MA, MPH, OTR, GCFP: Member of the State Board for Occupational Therapy, 2018-present. Coordinated with NYSOTA on the development and implementation of the Dessert & Dialogue Continuing Education Series. Participated in Downstate's Geriatric Clerkship program to educate medical student residents on occupational therapy. Developed a Zoom fall prevention and exercise program to reach home bound elders during the pandemic. Numerous speaking engagements on topics such as pelvic health, fall prevention, breathing for function, tai chi and chronic pain.

Jasmin Thomas, OTD, OTR/L, BCP: Received the SUNY Chancellors Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. Appointed by the President of SUNY Downstate to serve on the accreditation committee. Continues to develop the Emotional Intelligence Curriculum which is used by multiple OTA/MSOT/OTD programs throughout the nation to teach and enhance soft skills in future clinicians. Selected as a mentor in the inaugural Diversity in Medicine Mentorship Program. Published and presented at various conferences.

Daurn Tribble, MS, OTR/L: Member of NYSOTA Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee. Certified in LSVT BIG, Teaching and Learning for Faculty, Home Modifications – Aging in Place, and Early Intervention. Currently works as a home care Occupational Therapist and private practitioner. Guest lectured on Sexuality and the role of OT, SUNY Downstate.