



4720 Montgomery Lane • Suite 202 • Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3449
www.aotf.org • (240) 292-1079 • aotf@aotf.org

St. Catherine Challenge Research Fundraising Winner Announced

April 1, 2015

Bethesda, Maryland – The American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) is pleased to announce that St. Catherine University is the winner of the 2015 St. Catherine Challenge. The University of North Dakota and Washington University at St. Louis won second and third place respectively. Special recognition goes to Boston University, winner of the Biggest Stretch Award and to Spalding University, winner of the Most Successful Newcomer Award. This competition, which launched in the fall of 2013, recognizes the student group from a university with an accredited occupational therapy program that raises the most money to support practice-related research.

In its second year, the challenge raised more than ten thousand dollars to support occupational therapy research. The winning university will receive a trophy and recognition at the 2015 AOTA Conference and Exposition to be held in Nashville, Tennessee, April 16-18, 2015.

In acknowledging the winners and the extraordinary students who participated, AOTF President Diana Ramsay commented: “The Foundation Board of Directors is deeply impressed by the commitment and leadership shown by students who participated in this important fundraising challenge. AOTF is committed to its longstanding mission to advance the science of occupational therapy that supports people’s full participation in meaningful life activities, and the St. Catherine Challenge supports this mission.”

Modeled after physical therapy’s successful Marquette Challenge, the St. Catherine Challenge was started to highlight student awareness of the importance of occupational therapy research to guide practice and the need for all members of the profession to support AOTF’s ability to fund important practice-related research. The challenge was started in September 2013 by honor society students from St. Catherine University who challenged occupational therapy students at universities across the United States to a friendly competition to raise money for the intervention research grants program of AOTF.

Fifteen (15) occupational therapy programs across the country participated in this year’s St. Catherine Challenge. These leading programs include: *St. Catherine University, Boston University, College of St. Scholastica, Creighton University, Florida International University, Ithaca College, Spalding University, Thomas Jefferson University, University of North Dakota, University of Puget Sound, University of Southern California, University of Toledo, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Washington University in St. Louis.*

Additional Information about the St. Catherine Challenge is available at the AOTF website at www.aotf.org.

Contact: Cara Archer, carcher@aotf.org, (240)-292-1077.

About AOTF

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation is a 501 (c)(3), charitable, scientific and educational foundation founded in 1965. Its mission is to advance research, education and public awareness for occupational therapy so that all people may participate fully in life regardless of their physical, social, mental or development circumstances. Learn more at www.aotf.org.