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AOTF Announces the Charles Christiansen and Beth Jones Endowed Scholarship

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The American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) announces the creation of The Charles Christiansen and Beth Jones Endowed Scholarship. Through a gift provided by Dr. Charles Christiansen and his wife, Dr. Beth Jones, this scholarship endowment will be used to support occupational therapy students attending accredited programs in the United States who are from underrepresented populations in order to increase the diversity of occupational therapy practitioners.

“We are deeply grateful for this donation, which extends a professional legacy Dr. Christiansen has already secured,” remarked AOTF Board Chair Diana Ramsay. “As a well-respected author, scholar and leader in occupational therapy, he has earned global recognition and we are honored to be able to award scholarships bearing his name.”

Dr. Christiansen earned his degree in occupational therapy from the School of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of North Dakota and began professional practice focusing on adolescent mental health, chronic illness, and traumatic brain injury. He later attended graduate school, earning degrees in counseling psychology and educational administration. His academic career spanned over three decades and focused on the education of health professionals. He held faculty and administrative leadership roles at universities in the United States and Canada, as well as honorary appointments in Australia. He served as chief executive officer of The American Occupational Therapy Foundation between 2008 and 2015.

Dr. Beth Jones is a leading biochemist in the food industry. Through her association via her husband, she has become a fervent supporter of occupational therapy and as an equestrian, has a special interest in hippotherapy.

Acknowledging the gift as the first endowment to be created during the AOTF's 50th Anniversary Campaign, AOTF CEO Dr. Scott Campbell commented: “We are pleased to receive this significant campaign gift and hope that it inspires others to recognize the importance of scholarships for students in occupational therapy. These educational endowments are perpetual, supporting future generations of students and touching countless individuals who benefit from the therapy services they provide. Dr. Christiansen's contributions to the occupational therapy profession are too numerous to list, and with this gift both he and Dr. Jones will continue to not only support the education and training of future OTs, but to champion greater diversity in the profession.”

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable, scientific and educational organization established in 1965. To learn more about AOTF and its 50th anniversary “*Research Matters!*” fundraising campaign, visit www.aotf.org