



Susan Robertson Endows Fellowship to Honor Nedra Gillette

“Nedra Gillette has been an inspiration to me for many years,” says Susan Robertson. “Her guidance in my clinical research, educational pursuits, and personal growth has greatly influenced a career I value deeply. (That’s why) I am honored to have enabled the American Occupational Therapy Foundation to establish the Nedra Gillette Endowed Research Fellowship in Occupational Therapy.”

A long-time friend of AOTF, Susan serves as mental health specialist and senior occupational therapist with the Rehabilitation Medicine Department of the Department of Health and Human Services of the National Institutes of Health Clinical Research Center. She established the endowment through the AOTF Scholarship Matching Grant Program, which provides a dollar-for-dollar match for any new funds contributed to an endowment. The Nedra Gillette Endowed Research Fellowship in Occupational Therapy will support post-doctoral research fellows at recognized research institutions to “stimulate discovery that is important to medicine and behavioral science, and vital to the communities we serve.”

“So much of the progress in developing research in occupational therapy can be associated with Nedra Gillette, who was responsible for planning and organizing many of the Foundation’s key initiatives aimed at preparing scientists and focusing research efforts from 1980 through 2007,” continued Susan. “The impact of her work as the former director of research for AOTF is evident in the Foundation’s research enterprise as well as in the domains of education and practice. Her work helped increase awareness of the scope of occupational therapy and its influences on health, quality of life and social justice while inspiring colleagues to excel in scholarship.”

The AOTF Scholarship Matching Grant Program, which offers a 20% match for existing scholarships made into an endowed fund and a 100% match for newly created endowments, has been extended through September 30, 2012 or while matching funds remain available. The scholarship program is one of the Foundation’s longest standing programs to advance education. An endowed scholarship protects the principal from the volatility of the market because the scholarship or fellowship amounts are based on the earnings of the endowment. To date, twenty-seven endowments have been created to support the future of occupational therapy through this program. To learn more about the AOTF Scholarship Matching Grant Program or to make a gift in support of AOTF endowed funds, including the Nedra Gillette Endowed Research Fellowship in Occupational Therapy, visit www.aotf.org.

The American Occupational Therapy Foundation is a 501c3 charitable, scientific and educational organization established in 1965. Its mission is to advance research, education, and leadership in the field of occupational therapy and to raise public awareness of the importance of enabling individuals to participate fully in life, regardless of their physical, social, mental, or developmental circumstances.

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