

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2007

CONTACT: Rob Black
301-652-6611 x2963
Cell: 301-641-4815
praota@aota.org

DR. CHARLES CHRISTIANSEN RECEIVES PRESIDENTS' COMMENDATION FROM AOTA, AOTF

Profession's Highest Honor Reflects Lifetime of Service

(Bethesda, MD) — Dr. Charles Christiansen, EdD, OTR, FAOTA, was awarded the Presidents' Commendation from the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and the American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) at AOTA's 87th Annual Conference & Expo in St. Louis, MO, on Friday, April 20. The award is the profession's highest honor and is only given to those who exemplify the pursuit of excellence over a lifetime of professional service.

A former vice president of AOTA, Christiansen led the development process for the profession's Centennial Vision, providing a roadmap to move the profession forward as its centennial approaches in 2017. He currently is serving as the director of the Center for Allied Health Programs at the University of Minnesota.

"For nearly four decades, Dr. Christiansen has honored our profession with his investment of time, talent, and treasure," said AOTA President M. Carolyn Baum, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA. "He has lived his professional life with commitments defined by civic professional responsibility, by building foundations for the future, and by challenging himself and his colleagues to face that future with dedication to excellence."

In addition to serving as AOTA vice president, Christiansen has served in many other leadership roles throughout his career in occupational therapy. A few of those include

- founding editor of the *Occupational Therapy Journal of Research*,
- chair of the Accreditation Committee of AOTA,
- member of AOTA's Representative Assembly,
- AOTA treasurer and chair of the Fiscal Advisory Committee, and
- chair of the Research Advisory Council.

The AOTA and AOTF Presidents' Commendation in Honor of Wilma L. West was established in 1990 by the governing boards of the Association and the Foundation.

The American Occupational Therapy Association, established in 1917, represents more than 35,000 members. AOTA is an active advocate for the profession and for individuals who can benefit from occupational therapy services.