AOTA® The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.

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ENROLLMENT ON THE RISE FOR OT STUDENTS

Five-Year Trend Shows Large Increases in Both OT and OTA Students

(Bethesda, MD)—Demand for occupational therapy services is growing and student enrollment is rising to help the profession meet those demands. Over the last 5 years, there has been a 22% increase in the number of students in the United States studying to be occupational therapists. The number of students studying to be occupational therapy assistants has risen by 36%.

"This important data quantifies what our occupational therapy educators see every day," said AOTA President Penny Moyers Cleveland, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA. "Students know that the profession can provide them with much personal, financial, and professional fulfillment as they learn to help others live life to its fullest."

The data is compiled from surveys of academic programs across the country. AOTA performs these surveys every year in March. The table below shows the year-by-year data.

	03-'04	04-'05	05-'06	06-'07	07-'08	5-Yr Growth
OT	10,008	10,239	10,861	11,059	12,246	22%
OTA	3,622	4,480	4,915	4,544	4,921	36%

Founded in 1917, the **American Occupational Therapy Association** (AOTA) represents the interests and concerns of more than 36,000 occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, and students nationwide. The Association educates the public and advances the profession of occupational therapy by providing resources, setting standards (including accreditation), and serving as an advocate to improve health care. Based in Bethesda, Maryland, AOTA's major programs and activities are directed toward promoting the professional development of its members and assuring consumer access to quality services so patients can maximize their individual potential and live life to its fullest. For more information, go to **www.aota.org**.

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