

A Special Invitation to New Practitioners from the Emerging Leaders Development Committee

The AOTA Emerging Leaders Development Committee (ELDC) is announcing an exciting opportunity for new practitioners.

The continued development of strong leaders within the profession is essential to achieving the goals we have for the Centennial Vision. The Emerging Leaders Development Program recognizes and develops those practitioners who have shown an initial dedication to the profession and service at the start of their career. It provides leadership training and ongoing mentorship, as well as identifies needs for service within AOTA and matches those opportunities with each participant's area of interest.

Once candidates are chosen, they will receive a formal face-to-face (2-day) training focusing on leadership development, and components of the program. Following this training, candidates will participate in a service learning component where they will work with AOTA or a state association on a project or leadership role where they fill a real need. Assistance will be given to match current needs and opportunities with candidate interest areas. The training program will also include a formal mentored experience where trainees are paired with individuals currently in a leadership position in AOTA for a period of at least 1 year following the training. Participant emerging leaders will also be expected to share their experiences via AOTA publications or formal/informal presentations.

Who Should Apply?

Candidates considered for this program may be OT or OTA students in their last year of their professional preparation or new practitioners with 5 years or fewer of experience. Candidates must also be current members of AOTA.

This is a program for people who see themselves staying involved in AOTA leadership. Candidates must be able to commit to:

- attendance at a 2-day training session at AOTA in Bethesda, MD on January 8-9, 2010 (travel and per diem paid by AOTA);
- a formal mentorship/training period of 12 months; and
- an expectation of ongoing leadership service within AOTA for a period of time.

It is the ELDC's goal and hope that the leadership training and experience inspires individuals to continue service within AOTA throughout their careers.

Applications should be electronically submitted to vsstein@aota.org and be received no later than **November 6, 2009**.