Current opportunities and challenges facing OT education!

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Health Care Hiring Boom Projected To Continue, Regardless Of Law

• Hospitals are still expected to add jobs — **nearly a million** between 2010 and 2020, for a growth rate of 17 percent.
• Offices of doctors and other health-care professionals are projected to hire **1.4 million people** by 2020, a 36 percent increase.
• Home health care jobs will jump by 872,000, or 81 percent.
• Ambulatory care will grow by **2.7 million** between 2010 and 2020, or 44 percent.
By 2020, almost one out of nine American jobs will be in health care.
Opportunity

It is not just Healthcare... Times Magazine...

• Ranks Occupational Therapy #18 out of a list of 150 recession proof jobs.
• The best recession-proof jobs are those that are: least sensitive to economic downturn, and which have the highest combined scores for pay, projected workforce growth, and number of openings.
• Economists note that the increasing elderly population and individuals with disabilities will drive growth in the demand for occupational therapy services over the next 10-15 years.
How do we develop the capacity to meet the growing workforce demand?
Opportunity…. Applications to OTA programs grew by 30% last year.
Applications to Masters programs - 29.5%

- 2010
  - Places: 5,937
  - Applications: 17,789
  - Started: 5,846
- 2011
  - Places: 6,193
  - Applications: 23,044
  - Started: 6,155

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OTD applications grew by 40%
Program Growth....
Applicant Programs....

![Graph showing the number of applicant programs for Doctoral, Masters, and OTA degrees from 2000-2012.](image)

- **Doctoral**
- **Masters**
- **OTA**
Developing Programs.....

![Line graph showing the number of students in Doctoral and Masters programs from 2000-2012. The number of Doctoral students increases significantly from 2005 onwards, reaching 28 in 2010-2011 and 25 in 2011-2012. The number of Masters students remains relatively low, with a peak of 6 in 2007-2008.]
Program Growth

- Since 2007, **74 OTA** programs have started or completed the accreditation process- 51% growth
- Since 2007, **14 OT** programs have started or completed the accreditation process- 9% growth

(Note: This does not include 42 (29 OTA) satellite locations).
Are we (you) prepared for this growth?

Faculty Needs:

• Do we have the qualified faculty resources to support the growth in students and programs?
• Do we have the correct ratio of core to adjunct faculty? - over 30% of FTE’s are adjuncts
• Do the faculty have the needed skill mix: education, content/ practice & scholarship?
Are we (you) prepared for this growth?

- What is the plan for developing future faculty for your program?
- What is the plan for ensuring that your program has the leadership it needs to thrive during periods of change?
Are we (you) prepared for this growth?

Fieldwork needs:

- Do we have a field work program that can respond to the growth and fulfill our commitment to our students? In 2011 there were over 17,000 FW Level II placements.
- Is the current model preparing entry-level graduates that meet the needs of the community and stakeholders?
What else is changing?
Obama meeting focuses on cost, affordability, productivity

- President Obama, Education Secretary Arne Duncan, and several domestic policy advisers met with chancellors and presidents from 10 institutions, including public universities, two private nonprofit colleges, and one statewide community college.

- The leaders focused on a few key questions: **how colleges can become more affordable while producing more graduates**, and how new efforts in affordability or productivity can be “scaled up” from one college to large state systems or the nation as a whole.

Inside Higher Education (December 6, 2011)

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Do you have the outcomes?

Key indicators:
- Retention/attrition rates
- Time to degree completion
- Degree completion rates
- Certification pass rates
- Gainful employment rates

They want them readily available to the public!
Are we preparing the graduates?

- Do the graduates of your program have the competencies to meet the changing needs of our society?
- What are your program evaluation measures telling you?
The curriculum and content taught?

How often do you complete a curriculum review?
• Does your curriculum adequately prepare graduates for:
  – Interprofessional Practice Education/ Practice (IPEP)?
  – An active role in primary care?
  – Addressing the occupational needs of populations?
  – Practice in telehealth?
  – Practice as an educator/researcher etc.
How are we doing??

• We are doing an excellent job with time to degree completion and graduation rates.
• We have good pass rates on the national certification exam
• We have great employment rates.
• Based on employer and graduate surveys we do a good job in teaching practice based content and competencies in individual based occupational therapy interventions.
How are we doing??

• We need to do better at using our outcomes to demonstrate our success as academic programs to those outside of our profession.
• We are not consistently using our outcome measures and strategic planning process to keep pace with the changes happening around us.
• We are slow to respond where other professions are not!
• We need to be more responsive in making change!
One last thought...

The issue of the entry-level degree(s) is not going away!