

QUARTER I - SPECIAL EDITION

COX COLLEGE OTD PROGRAM

# THE CAPSTONE CURRENT



Advancing the OT Profession Forward Through Capstone



## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

*Did you know...People who act altruistically also experience more reciprocal kindness and health benefits? And...research shows that student mentees generally perform better in their programs and in their careers? Capstone relies on mentors to volunteer their time and talents to support students throughout their in-depth experience of capstone. With benefits to both, it sounds like a Win-Win!*

### April is Occupational Therapy Month!

#### How does the entry-level OTD Capstone Advance the OT profession?

Capstone advances the occupational therapy profession by moving ideas into action. OTD students are embedded in communities where they design and implement innovative programs, evaluate outcomes, build research capacity, advocate for access, and contribute to education and leadership. Capstone bridges the gap between theory and practice, translating literature and theoretical frameworks into meaningful, real-world impact. Over a 14-week mentored experience, students bring their vision to life while working toward individualized learning objectives grounded in community need. Importantly, capstone projects are developed with sustainability in mind, supporting continued impact beyond the student's placement. Through dissemination of their work, students contribute to a growing body of knowledge and inspire future practitioners to expand occupational therapy potential.

#### What is happening with Capstone Currents?

- C1 OTD students are finishing up their final weeks of capstone experience!
- C1 OTD Students are polishing their scientific posters to present them at the OTD & MND Graduate Showcase.
- Faculty Mentors are busy supporting capstone dissemination preparations.
- C1 OTD Students are finalizing their portfolio work for capstone (the compilation) and preparing for their oral capstone defense virtual presentations.
- C2 OTD students are entering or soon to be entering their second level II fieldwork placements

#### Capstone Experience - Ample opportunity to answer the age old question..."What is OT?"

By **living out** the role of an occupational therapist over a 14-week placement, students actively advance the profession by demonstrating its distinct value in real-world contexts. Many capstone experiences occur in settings that have not traditionally employed occupational therapy, creating opportunities to expand awareness and application of OT services. Through educating others about the OT profession, students strengthen and develop their own sense of occupational identity as an occupational therapist.

Due to the impact of the capstone and student preparedness, many organizations often begin to re-evaluate staffing models and consider how occupational therapy can support and strengthen their mission. Through these experiences, students illustrate how OT can effectively serve individuals, groups, and populations, promoting engagement in meaningful occupations and enhancing health and well-being.



# THE CAPSTONE PROGRAM ROWING CREW

Recognizing our Fantastic Community Mentor Volunteers!



**Kelly Behlmann-Kannel**

Founder, Executive Director  
D.A.S.A.: Disabled Athlete Sports Association  
Content Expert Mentor to Blake Williams



**Tammi Cawthra, FPN-C**

Dundy County Hospital - Quality Health  
Care Clinic  
Content Expert Mentor to Ashley Bailey



**Sheretta Willard**

Director of Resources/Shelter Services  
Survival Adult Abuse Center  
Content Expert Mentor to Dayjha Hill



**Carrie Bywater**

Hailey Center Program Director  
Developmental Center of the Ozarks  
Content Expert Mentor to Madison  
Froeschle

# THE CAPSTONE PROGRAM ROWING CREW



## Recognizing our Community Mentor Volunteers!



### Rebekah Manahan, PA

Emergency Manager, Employee Health,  
Worker's Compensation  
Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center  
Content Expert Mentor to Britany Angelton



### Lindsey Williams, OTR, CHT

Student Program Coordinator  
Scottish Rite for Children  
Content Expert Mentor to Crysler  
Daughtry



### Collin Hill, MOT, OTR/L

Director of Therapy Services  
The Arc of the Ozarks - Autism &  
Neurodevelopmental Center  
Content Expert Mentor to Bailee Russell

### Abbye Gieringer, OTR

Therapy Services Manager  
(Inpatient/Clinic)  
Scottish Rite for Children  
Site Supervisor Mentor to Crysler  
Daughtry

*Thank  
You*