

# NEWS RELEASE

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## University of Delaware PT Students Recognized by Foundation for Physical Therapy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALEXANDRIA, VA (June 30, 2017) – The Foundation for Physical Therapy is pleased to present the University of Delaware’s PT Program with the Award of Excellence and induction into the Challenge Society of the Marquette Challenge Philanthropy Circle for the 2016-2017 VCU-Marquette Challenge. Award of Excellence is given to schools who raise \$10,000 or more for the Challenge. The University of Delaware also moved from the Cornerstone Society to the Challenge Society for their cumulative giving efforts totaling over \$100,000 throughout 17 consecutive years of participation in the Challenge. Notably, students at the University of Delaware raised over \$17,000 for physical therapy research this year.

Physical therapist and physical therapist assistant students from across the country were recognized for their fundraising efforts through the 2016-2017 VCU-Marquette Challenge at APTA’s NEXT Conference and Exposition in Boston, MA on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Top fundraising schools were announced during the *Challenge Awards Luncheon* co-hosted by Marquette University and sponsored by Performance Health. Students also received recognition during the *Foundation’s 2017 Boston PT Party*. Students from 146 schools raised \$340,986 to support physical therapy research. There was a record number of returning schools from last year’s “The List,” almost doubling retention to 70%.

Mercer University took top honors, winning first place and naming rights for the next Challenge by raising \$45,220. The 2017-2018 Mercer-Marquette Challenge kicks off at the National Student Conclave in Portland, Oregon on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

“It has been incredible to witness the continued support and commitment physical therapist students show towards their future profession and the Foundation,” said Foundation Board of Trustees President, Edelle Field-Fote, PT, PhD, FAPTA. “Their

efforts generously support research grants and scholarships that are so important for the field of physical therapy to progress. The students' dedication and enthusiasm helps make our work possible. Thank you to all of the faculty who emphasize the importance of physical therapy research and continue to encourage students to go above and beyond when participating in the Challenge."

The Challenge is the largest annual student-driven fundraising effort for the Foundation for Physical Therapy. The money raised by PT and PTA students helps fund scholarships and grants that advance patient care. Additionally the Challenge also supports the rigorous scientific review process for all Foundation grants and scholarships. Since its inception in 1989, 269 schools have participated in raising over \$3.7 million for physical therapy research.

### **About the Foundation for Physical Therapy**

The Foundation for Physical Therapy was established in 1979 as a national, independent nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality and delivery of physical therapy care by providing support for scientifically based and clinically relevant physical therapy research and doctoral scholarships and fellowships.

Over the past 38 years, the Foundation has awarded more than \$17 million in research grants, fellowships, and post-professional doctoral scholarships to more than 590 emerging scientists. Foundation-funded researchers have gone on to receive an estimated \$753 million in external funding from the National Institutes of Health and other sources. Many of today's leading and emerging physical therapist researchers, clinicians, and academicians began their career with a grant or scholarship from the Foundation.

Contributions to the Foundation for Physical Therapy are tax-deductible and can be made online at [Foundation4PT.org](http://Foundation4PT.org) or via postal mail at 1111 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. For more information, visit [Foundation4pt.org](http://Foundation4pt.org), email [marquettechallenge@foundation4pt.org](mailto:marquettechallenge@foundation4pt.org), or call 800/875-1378.

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