FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PHYSICAL THERAPY AND PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES RAISE MORE THAN $266K FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY RESEARCH

ALEXANDRIA, VA (June 13, 2019) – Physical therapist and physical therapist assistant students from more than 150 schools joined forces this school year to raise $266,019 for physical therapy research. Now in its 31st year, the annual Marquette Challenge is a student-led fundraiser to benefit the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research.

Funds raised through the Challenge go towards physical therapy research grants and scholarships and support the rigorous scientific review process that helps the Foundation identify the most promising new investigators. Since 2002, 27 research grants and scholarships have been awarded in the name of the Challenge. Funds from the Challenge also helped fund a recent high priority research grant to look at physical therapy interventions for older adults suffering from multiple chronic conditions.

"Most of the students who participate in the Challenge will not become researchers," said Sarah Andrews, SPT, a student coordinator for the University of Pittsburgh. "They fundraise because Foundation-funded research advances physical therapy. It's our way to give forward to our future profession."

Top fundraising schools and special awards were announced on June 13, 2019, at the Foundation’s Awards Luncheon held during the 2019 American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) NEXT Conference and Exposition in Chicago. The luncheon was cohosted by Marquette University and sponsored by the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT).

The top 3 fundraising schools for the 2018-2019 Pitt-Marquette Challenge were Virginia Commonwealth University ($34,327), the University of Pittsburgh ($22,648), and the University of Delaware ($18,323).

The Foundation also recognizes Marquette University students for their steadfast support of the Challenge in raising $25,000.

Awards of Excellence were presented to New York University, Sacred Heart University, The Ohio State University, and the University of Miami for raising more than $10,000 each, Boston University, Emory University, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, and the University of Colorado for raising more than $6,000 each earning the Award of Merit. The Foundation also recognized the following schools for their efforts:

Honorable Mention Schools Raising $3,000 or More
Arcadia University
Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences
MCPHS University
Northwestern University
Saint Louis University
Shenandoah University
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
The University of Iowa
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Central Arkansas
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Washington University in St. Louis
William Carey University

Most Successful PT Newcomer
Georgia Southern University

Biggest Stretch
Sacred Heart University

Most Successful PTA School
Somerset Community College

Most Creative
Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences

“The List”
2018-2019 Pitt-Marquette Challenge

Participating Schools:
A.T. Still University of Health Sciences; Alabama State University; American International College; Andrews University; Azusa Pacific State University; Briar Cliff University; California State University, Sacramento; Clarkson College; Clarkson University; Cleveland State University; College of St. Scholastica; Columbia University; Community College of Rhode Island; Creighton University; Daemen College; DeSales University; Dominican College of Blauvelt; Drexel University; Duke University; East Tennessee State University; Elon University; Emory and Henry College; Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University; Franklin Pierce University; Georgia State University; Grand Valley State University; Hazard Comm & Tech College / Southeast Kentucky Comm
There is a friendly competition between schools to see who can fundraise the most,” said McKayla Figueroa, SPT, a student coordinator for Marquette University. “But the most important thing is just to participate at any level. We’re all connected by a shared passion for helping people through physical therapy.”

The 2019-2020 VCU-Marquette Challenge will kick off at the APTA National Student Conclave taking place October 31-November 2, 2019, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. For more information, visit MarquetteChallenge.com.
About the Foundation for Physical Therapy Research

The Foundation for Physical Therapy Research, formerly known as the Foundation for Physical Therapy, is celebrating forty years of funding research and researchers. Founded in 1979, the Foundation has awarded more than $17 million in grants, fellowships, and scholarships to nearly 600 researchers. Learn more about the Foundation’s investments in the physical therapy profession at foundation4pt.org.

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