



NATIONAL SOCIETY
OF ALLIED HEALTH



National Society of Allied Health Annual Conference and Meeting

**“Impact of Political Climate on Healthcare
Education and Patient Care”**

**Convening at Winston-Salem State University
Winston Salem, NC | March 26-28, 2026**

National Society of Allied Health Membership Types and Eligibility

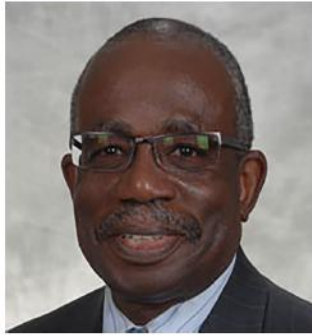
- a) Institutional Members: Historically and/or pre-dominantly Black Institutions for minorities shall be eligible for Institutional Membership; each Institutional member shall have full voting rights, including the right to elect directors, and to vote on Articles of Amendment; each Institutional Member shall be represented by an “Institutional Representative”.
- b) Associate Organizational Members: Agencies, associations, societies and programs, which have relationships to and/or interest in the development of allied health programs for minorities. Each Associate Organizational Member shall have full voting rights, including the right to elect directors, and to vote on Articles of Amendment. Each Associate Organizational Member shall be represented by an “Associate Representative”.
- c) Individual Members: Individuals who have an abiding interest in enhancing allied health programs for minorities, shall be eligible for Individual Membership. Each Individual Member shall have full voting rights, including the right to elect directors and to vote on Articles of Amendment.
- d) Student Members: Students attending Institutional Member Universities and Colleges shall be eligible for membership without a vote in the business of the Corporation.
- e) Sustaining Members: Corporate and financial entities having an interest in sustaining and enhancing allied health programs for minorities shall be eligible for Sustaining Membership. Sustaining Members shall not be entitled to elect directors or to vote on Articles of Amendment.

The Benefits of Belonging to the National Society of Allied Health

- a) The NSAH connects you with colleagues for communication and collaboration in identifying career opportunities, conducting scholarly activities, and planning health promotion and prevention activities that impact the minority community.
- b) The NSAH’s Annual Meeting provides a platform for Allied Health faculty and practitioners to present research, scholarly activities, and innovative health programs.
- c) The NSAH provides mentors for students attending HBCUs and other Colleges and Universities that have Allied Health programs.
- d) The NSAH sponsors and promotes chapters of the Student Honor Society of the NSAH at HBCU member institutions.
- e) The NSAH conducts continuing education for faculty and practitioners/clinicians at the Annual Conference and Meeting.
- f) The NSAH Journal serves as a source of information and as a forum for the publication of research by faculty at HBCUs.
- g) The NSAH provides opportunities for networking with minority health care professionals who are able to serve as resources for information regarding education in HBCUs and discuss the issues of health disparities and allied health workforce development concerns.

Goals of the National Society of Allied Health

1. To develop allied health leaders with expertise in education, administration, advocacy, research, practice and service delivery.
2. To promote student development in leadership for NSAH and other professional organizations.
3. To improve the financial standing of the NSAH in order to maintain self-sufficiency.
4. Serve as an advocate for allied health education, research, practice and service in African American communities.



Message from the President

Dear Attendees of the 2026 National Society of Allied Health Annual Conference and Meeting:

As President of the National Society of Allied Health (NSAH), I am pleased and honored to welcome you to our 2026 Annual Conference and Meeting. As you are aware, the NSAH addresses health issues that affect African-American communities through education, research, practice, and service. The Annual Conference and Meeting provides a forum for the development of faculty, students, and practitioners.

The conference theme “Impact of the Political Climate on Healthcare Education and Patient Care” is in keeping with the NSAH goal of addressing African-American health issues. Given NSAH’s mission and its role in elevating allied health professionals from HBCUs, this conference provides a timely and necessary platform to examine how political forces affect the preparation of African-American allied health professionals and the care they provide.

We greatly appreciate the faculty and student presenters at this conference and the wide range of topics to be addressed. It is our expectation that the presentations and discussions will be of considerable value to you in your professional pursuits. As such, we appreciate your attendance and encourage your full participation.

Please utilize the conference as an opportunity to interact and network with attendees from the various institutions represented. We look forward to your meaningful feedback on the conference.

Sincerely,

Allan A. Johnson

Allan A. Johnson, Ph.D., FASAHP
President

BONITA J. BROWN, J.D.



CHANCELLOR



March 12, 2026

Dear Attendees of the National Society of Allied Health Conference:

On behalf of the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Winston-Salem State University, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to our campus for this year's National Society of Allied Health Conference. We are honored to host An organization whose work continues to shape the future of allied health education, leadership, and service across our nation and beyond.

At Winston-Salem State University, we are proud of our long-standing commitment to expanding educational opportunities and preparing graduates who lead with purpose. Recently, our institution was recognized by the Carnegie Classifications of Higher Education as North Carolina's only Opportunity College. This designation recognizes institutions that excel in providing access to diverse populations while effectively positioning graduates for meaningful career success. It is a distinction that reflects the dedication of our campus community and our shared belief that higher education should be a powerful pathway to opportunity and impact.

Our mission aligns closely with the work of the National Society of Allied Health. Your commitment to developing allied health leaders with expertise in education, administration, advocacy, research, practice, and service delivery is vital to strengthening the health professions and improving outcomes in communities across the country. Equally important is your emphasis on cultivating student leadership and ensuring that the next generation of allied health professionals are prepared to not only practice with excellence but also to lead with vision, compassion, and integrity.

As a Historically Black College and University, Winston-Salem State University has long served as a catalyst for preparing health professionals who address disparities and expand access to quality care. The presence of so many scholars, practitioners, and emerging leaders gathered for this conference reinforces the importance of collaboration, innovation, and shared commitment to advancing health equity and professional excellence.

I encourage you to take full advantage of meaningful discussion, research presentations, and networking opportunities that this conference provides. May your time here spark new ideas, strengthen partnerships, and inspire continued progress in allied health education and service.

We are honored to host you on our campus and grateful for the vital work you do to advance the allied health professions and support the development of future leaders.

Welcome to Winston-Salem State University, and best wishes for a productive and inspiring conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonita J. Brown".

Bonita J. Brown, JD
Chancellor

WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

202 BLAIR HALL • WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA • 27110

PHONE: 336-750-2041 • FAX: 336-750-2049 • E-MAIL: chancelloroffice@wssu.edu

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An Equal Opportunity Employer*



STEVIE L. LAWRENCE, PH.D.

**PROVOST AND VICE CHANCELLOR
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**



February 19, 2026

Dear Esteemed Colleagues, Distinguished Guests, and Members
of the National Society of Allied Health,

It is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome you to our campus
for this national conference of the National Society of Allied Health.

We are deeply honored to serve as host for an organization that is recognized nationally and internationally for its unwavering commitment to advancing equity in health education, professional development, and healthcare delivery. Your work in addressing health disparities in African American communities—through advocacy, policy development, research, and community-centered interventions—reflects both urgency and purpose.

For generations, Historically Black Colleges and Universities have stood at the forefront of expanding access to education and cultivating leaders who transform communities. In the health professions especially, our institutions have played a pivotal role in preparing practitioners, scholars, and policymakers dedicated to eliminating inequities and improving health outcomes in underserved populations. Your presence on our campus affirms the power of partnership between professional organizations and academic institutions committed to improving the quality of care.

As Provost, I am particularly inspired by the opportunities this conference provides for our students. Your mentorship, research insights, and professional leadership offer powerful examples of what is possible when expertise is guided by purpose. You are shaping not only systems of care, but also the next generation of allied health leaders.

We hope that during your time here, you will experience the warmth of our campus community, the richness of our history, and the depth of our shared commitment to health equity. May this conference energize your work, deepen your networks, and propel forward solutions that make a measurable and lasting impact. With great respect and anticipation for a meaningful and productive conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stevie Lawrence", written over a light blue background.

Stevie L. Lawrence II, Ph.D.
Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY
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WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

Dean, Graduate College
Winston-Salem State University
322 Hill Hall
Winston-Salem, NC 27110

P: 336-750-2573 F: 336-750-3173 E: boykinmo@wssu.edu

Dear Conference Attendees, Colleagues, and Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of our host institution, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to this year's National Society of Allied Health conference. We are honored to host our colleague educators, practitioners, scholars, and students who are deeply committed to advancing allied health education and practice at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.



As a board member of the National Society of Allied Health, I am continually inspired by the organization's mission to serve as the official voice for HBCU allied health programs and to provide a meaningful forum for faculty, student, and practitioner development. Your presence here reflects a shared dedication to strengthening our programs, supporting our learners, and ultimately improving the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

This year's theme, *"Impact of the Political Climate on Healthcare, Education, and Patient Care,"* is both timely and essential. The environments in which we teach, learn, and practice are shaped by policy, advocacy, and public discourse. Conferences like this create space for thoughtful dialogue, evidence-based perspectives, and collaborative problem-solving. Together, we can explore how to navigate change, uphold equity, and ensure excellence in healthcare education and delivery.

I encourage you to fully engage in the sessions, share your expertise, build new partnerships, and mentor the next generation of allied health professionals. The conversations and connections formed here have the power to influence not only our institutions, but also the broader landscape of healthcare and education.

Thank you for your commitment to this vital work and for joining us at our institution, where our scholars "Enter to Learn and Depart to Serve." We wish you a productive, enlightening, and inspiring conference.

Sincerely,

Montrale Boykin

Montrale Boykin, JD

Winston-Salem State University is dedicated to providing equal opportunity in admissions and employment based on merit, and without discrimination based on race, color, creed, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability or veteran status, according to state and federal laws.

A constituent institution of the University of North Carolina.



Welcome from the Conference Planning Committee

Dear Conference Attendee:

It is with great pride and heartfelt enthusiasm that I welcome you to the 2026 National Society of Allied Health (NSAH) Annual Conference, hosted on the beautiful campus of Winston-Salem State University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

As Chair of this year's Planning Committee, I am honored to gather with distinguished faculty, clinicians, researchers, students, institutional leaders, and community partners who are deeply committed to advancing excellence in allied health education and practice.

The National Society of Allied Health remains steadfast in its mission to:

- Provide high-quality continuing education for faculty and practitioners
- Promote scholarly dissemination through the *Journal of the National Society of Allied Health*
- Foster meaningful networking among health professionals, particularly within HBCUs
- Address critical issues related to health disparities and allied health workforce development
- Cultivate faculty leadership through service and professional engagement

This year's conference represents more than a professional meeting—it is a collective commitment to advancing innovation, strengthening collaborative partnerships, and preparing the next generation of allied health leaders. Together, we continue to build a scholarly community that supports evidence-based practice, leadership development, and transformative educational strategies that directly impact the health of underserved communities.

As we engage in dynamic presentations, thought-provoking discussions, and strategic networking, I encourage each of you to actively participate, share your expertise, and form meaningful professional connections. The work we do within this organization reverberates far beyond this conference—it shapes institutions, influences policy, and ultimately improves health outcomes in the communities we serve.

On behalf of the 2026 NSAH Planning Committee, thank you for your dedication, your scholarship, and your unwavering commitment to allied health education, student success, and faculty advancement. We are honored by your presence and grateful for your partnership.

Welcome to Winston-Salem. Welcome to NSAH 2026 Annual Conference.

With appreciation and professional regards,

Phyllis Reaves

Phyllis Reaves, PhD

Chair, 2026 NSAH Annual Meeting Planning Committee





Welcome from the Executive Director

Welcome to the National Society of Allied Health (NSAH) 2026 Annual Conference and Meeting. Thank you to our gracious host, The Graduate College and Winston-Salem State University, for the invitation. The mission of the NSAH is to provide a forum for faculty, student and practitioner development as leaders in education, advocacy, research, and patient care. The theme of this conference, “Impact of the Political Climate on Healthcare Education and Patient Care” offers a timely and necessary platform to investigate how political forces shape the educational pathways and health outcomes of communities historically marginalized in health care. Health policy decisions made at federal, state, and local levels directly influence higher education in terms of funding, curriculum design, student access, regulatory oversight, and the quality and equity of patient care. By convening discussion around our theme, the NSAH seeks to deepen understanding of how political forces influence allied health education, and how we can meet the challenges. As I say every year “we don’t expect to come up with all the answers, we don’t even know all the questions”. What we can do is share what we have found that increases academic success for our students, contributes to the growth and development of our faculty and through them improves the health of our black and brown communities. Thank you for your continued support of the NSAH. I look forward to sharing with you.

Gloria Lawson Rogers, DPT, MMS, PT

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Gallop P. Franklin II Representative to the Florida State House of Representatives



Dr. Gallop P. Franklin II is an elected official, healthcare professional and college educator. He graduated from Florida A&M University's College of Pharmacy and holds both an MBA and an MS in Healthcare Leadership from Cornell University, where he was selected as a Fellow of the Cornell University Emerging Markets Institute. The fellowship has a keen focus on engaging global emerging market economies to leverage mutually beneficial economic and political opportunities. Notably, while in Bogota, Colombia, Dr. Franklin led a fireside chat with Ivan Duque Marquez, the most recent President of Colombia. In 2022, voters in Leon and Gadsden counties, with 71% of the votes, elected Dr. Franklin to serve as State Representative for District 08 in the Florida House of Representatives. He has effectively worked across party lines to pass meaningful legislation. In 2024, the Florida Legislature unanimously passed, and the governor signed HB 159, sponsored by Dr. Franklin. The law allows pharmacists to screen adults for HIV exposure and to provide the results of the screening, and to dispense post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for people who do not have HIV but are at high risk of exposure. He also sponsored HB 935, a law that allows advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to order medically necessary home health care services for individuals enrolled in Medicaid. Dr. Franklin's budget success at the Florida Capitol has brought over \$200 million to his district, which includes Gadsden County, Florida's only county with a majority Black population. He also played a critical role in securing over \$77 million for Florida A&M University (FAMU). Before being elected to the Florida House of Representatives, Dr. Franklin served as Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare's Assist Director of Pharmacy Services. Currently, he serves as President and CEO of Gallop Inc., a general consulting firm focused on healthcare, education, and real estate.

Dr. Franklin is a former nationally ranked martial artist, holding a fifth-degree black belt in Shaolin Goju, a former nationally ranked gymnast, an accomplished violinist, and played NCAA Division 1 men's golf for FAMU.

Guest Speaker

Chere Gregory, MD MHS

Dr. Chere Gregory is Senior Vice President and Chief Health Equity Officer for Novant Health. Dr. Gregory is responsible for strategy and operations for health equity and community health across the Novant Health system. In her role, Dr. Gregory is a purpose-driven healthcare leader dedicated to transforming healthcare delivery through strategic innovation, a relentless focus on advancing consistent care, and a commitment to safety and quality.



She aligns enterprise-wide initiatives with clinical excellence for all to enhance patient experience, support provider leadership, and address complex healthcare challenges for lasting impact. Dr. Gregory has been recognized for leading nationally acclaimed programs that close gaps in care, foster community partnerships, and elevate organizational performance. Dr. Gregory is a visionary leader who builds highly engaged, collaborative teams committed to driving meaningful outcomes and shaping the future of equitable, human-centered healthcare.

During her career, Dr. Gregory has spearheaded award-winning initiatives that have earned national recognition as well as multiple designations by U.S. News & World Report for advancing maternal and infant health.

Dr. Gregory leverages data analytics to identify clinical gaps, create interventions, track progress, ensure accountability, and foster a culture of belonging and inclusivity for all patient populations. To promote the highest level of wellness for all, she establishes system-wide strategies embedded within clinical practice and operational frameworks. These efforts not only improve patient outcomes but also position Novant Health as a leader in personalized, patient-centered care. She is responsible for community health innovation, and through strategic partnerships, addresses social drivers of health with sustainable community health models beyond clinical settings. As a change leader, Dr. Gregory is responsible for the transformation that enhances individualized care.

Dr. Gregory is board certified in Neurology and Vascular Neurology. She received a bachelor's degree at Brown University; master's in health finance and management at The Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and medical degree at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. She completed a fellowship in neurocritical care at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Family is the center of Dr. Gregory's life. She has four children. Janee and Nokomis, Jr. were inherited through love when she married her husband, Nokomis, Sr. She also has 11-year-old twin boys, Malcolm, and Malachi.

Guest Speaker

Roniece Weaver, MS RD LD

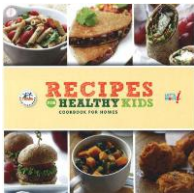
Famous for her cookbooks, nutrition classes, and co-hosting the very popular Wednesday Live with Hebni Nutrition (IG and FB), she's known for bringing out the best in you with simple, easy to follow tips and tricks for a guaranteed new you.

Ms. Weaver, received her Bachelor of Science in Food Science/Human Nutrition from the University of Florida and Master of Science degree in Health Care Administration from the University of Saint Francis. She is also a Registered Dietician (RD) and Licensed Dietician (LD) in the state of Florida.



She is the Director of Agency Operations, former ED, and founding partner of Hebni Nutrition Consultants, Inc. Her company is widely known for the development of the original **Soul Food Pyramid** and the **Soul Food Plate**; a culturally sensitive food guide nutrition tool. Hebni's programs, educational tools, and diabetes cookbooks have been featured in several media outlets. She and her partner are responsible for nutritional analysis, taste testing, and promotion of both books. In addition, she provides educational seminars to many health care organizations across the country. Ms. Weaver and her partners provided an integral part to the development of a state of the art Nutrition Resource Center in Downtown Orlando, which houses 4 commercial kitchens to serve as learning labs for wellness. This new facility has brought much notoriety to the health industry in bringing health messages to underserved populations in a different delivery mode. In 2014 Ms. Weaver launched the first **Mobile Farmers Market** on a city bus. This innovative project is called **The Fresh Stop Bus**.

In 2011 Ms. Weaver was selected to participate in Michelle Obama's "Let's Move Campaign" at the White House and was requested to provide health initiatives for school aged children. She and her team developed the "**Healthy 4 Kids Cookbook**" which aligns school recipes with the Let's Move



Initiative for the United States Department of Agriculture/ Food and Nutrition Services (USDA/FNS). She currently completed a contract with FNS/USDA to revise up to 200 recipes for school food service national database of recipes. She is responsible for implementing taste profiles, chef development and guidance to new recipe ingredients, and modernized procedures that provide healthier nutrition labeling for fat, salt, and sugar requirements.

She keeps a busy schedule lecturing nationally and instructing locally and web-based platforms on various nutrition topics and current health issues related to food and nutrition. Additionally, she served on the National Board for the American Diabetes Association(ADA); National Advocacy Committee for ADA, Past-Trustee for Health Central Hospital, and West Orange County District, Board Member for Florida Hospital Community Health Impact Council, and Board of Directors for the Central Florida Partnership in Health Disparities. She is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and the Orlando (FL) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated.

Her many contributions have been recognized by receipt of the President's Award from the National Medical Association Auxiliary, The African American Chamber, and the Presidents Award for Alum of the year from the President of The University of St. Francis in Joliet Illinois.

**2026 National Society of Allied Health Annual Conference and Meeting
Winston-Salem State University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Conference At a Glance**

12:00 p.m. –
12:30 p.m.

Faculty Platform Presentation

Moderator – Dr. Angela Thomas Davis, Associate Dean and Professor, retired, Alabama State University, NSAH Immediate Past President

Transforming Clinical Preparation: Integrating High Fidelity Simulation into OT/PT Curricula Through Cross- Institutional Collaboration

Kristin Sicotte, PT, DPT, Meghan Rysavy, OTD, Mayo Clinic-Rochester; Allison Calhoun, MS, OTR/L, Sanchaia Sen, OTD, MS, Chino Ingram, DrOT, MS, PTA, Winston-Salem State University

12:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 pm

Faculty Platform Presentations

A Theory Driven Holistic Admissions Model for a DPT Program at HBCU: A Case Report

S. Christopher Owens, PT, ScD, Ayodele Akinremi, PT, PhD, Yolanda Rainey, PT, DPT, Pamela Tucker, PT, DPT, Hampton University

From the Classroom to the Workplace: Preparing Future Healthcare Providers for Healthcare Advocacy

Douglas Bates, PhD, LCSW, Winston-Salem State University

Moderator – Dr. Charlene Portee, Dean
College of Health Sciences, Alabama State University
NSAH Institutional Representative

Work Force Well-Being in Higher Education Faculty: Work-Life Balance and Stress Post Covid-19 Era

Audrey B. Douglas-Cooke, PhD, MHA, BSN, Hedieh H. Sirjani, PhD, MD, Norfolk State University

Surgical Precision of Human Resource Course and Its Impact on Students, New Hires, and Patient Care

Robbaya R. Green-Weir, PhD, MHSA, Florida A & M University

Women in Higher Education: Research Success in Kinesiology and Allied Health: Hold On

Phoebe Butler Ajibade, EdD, North Carolina A & T State University

4:00 p.m.

Poster Presentations and Exhibitors

**2026 National Society of Allied Health Annual Conference and Meeting
Winston-Salem State University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Conference At a Glance**

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

5:00 p.m. –
6:30 p.m. **Reception**

Cleon F. Thompson, Jr. Student
Services Center, 601 S. Martin
Luther King Jr. Drive, Winston-
Salem, NC 27110, room 207

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

8:00 a.m. **Registration**
Breakfast

9:00 a.m. **Greetings and Introduction of Speaker** – Dr. Mary Simmons,
Dean School of Allied Health Sciences, Florida A&M
University, NSAH Institutional Representative

Guest Speaker – Roniece Weaver, MS, RDN, LDN, Director of
Agency Operations, Hebni Nutrition Consulting, Inc

10:00 a.m. –
10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:15 a.m. **Faculty Platform Presentations**
Moderator – Dr. Pamela Brown-White, Chair
Health Sciences Department, CNAHS
Howard University

Pelvic Floor PT: Evidence and Clinical Implications
Lauren Evans, SPT, Tia Burgess, SPT, Tori Forbes, SPT, Ciara
Huntley, SPT, Tenaja Neal, SPT, Kurt Gray, PT, DPT,
consultants Aditi Vyas, PT, PhD, Tracy Thomas, DPT, PhD,
Phyllis Reaves, PhD, Florida A & M University

*E Scooters to Class, Work and Practice: Preventing Orthopedic
and Head Injuries*
Phoebe Butler Ajibade, EdD, North Carolina A & T State
University

*Perceptions, Experiences, and Coping: A Qualitative Study of
Cyberbullying Among Black College Students*
Felicia N. Green, DrPH, MPH, Florida A & M University

**2026 National Society of Allied Health Annual Conference and Meeting
Winston-Salem State University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Conference At a Glance**

*Exploring Community Perspectives: A Mixed Methods Study
to Understand Firearm Unintentional Injuries and Safe
Practices in Leon County*

Willie L. Williams, DrPH, Marilyn A. Weatherspoon, PhD, Pia
S. Woodley, DBA, Florida A & M University

NSAH 2026 Allied Health Professions Week Competition

Christian Allen SPT and Asia Patton SPT, CNAHS, Department
of Physical Therapy, Howard University. Faculty advisors, Dr.
Sabrina Altema and Dr. Rose Schmeig

12:45 p.m. –
1:30 p.m.

NSAH Annual Business Meeting

2:00 p.m.

Closing Banquet (African Attire)

Winston-Salem Union Station
300 S Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

4:00 p.m.

Tour of Winston-Salem State University
Return to Hampton Inn and Suites Downtown Winston-Salem

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

Departure Day

2026 NSAH Closing Banquet

Opening Hymn

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Welcome

Dr. Montrale Boykin, Dean Graduate College

Greetings NSAH

Dr. Phyllis Reaves, Conference Program Chair & Incoming President

History of the NSAH

Dr. Gloria Rogers, Executive Director

Epsilon Tau Sigma Honor Society

Dr. Mary Simmons

Meditation and Blessing of the Food

Dr. Audrey Douglas-Cooke

Lunch

Recognitions and Awards

Final Remarks

Dr. Allan Johnson, President

Closing Prayer and Dismissal

"Lift Every Voice & Sing"

-James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet

Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,

Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last

Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,

Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;

Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

Biographical Sketches of Presenters

Platform Presenters

Transforming Clinical Preparation: Integrating High-Fidelity Simulation Into OT/PT Curricula Through Cross-Institutional Collaboration. **Kristin Sicotte, PT, DPT.** Dr. Sicotte is a physical therapist currently serving as Site Coordinator of Clinical Education and Program Director for the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Internship Programs at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. She holds Instructor Rank in the Mayo Clinic School of Health Science, is a member of the Mayo Clinic Academy of Education Excellence and is certified as an APTA Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program (CCIP) Level 1 Instructor. She has previously served as a clinical instructor within Mayo Clinic's collaborative model of clinical education, mentoring more than 80 physical therapy students during that time. She also supports Mayo Clinic Rochester's four Physical Therapy Residency programs and three Occupational Therapy Fellowship programs. Dr. Sicotte is dedicated to fostering student success through strategic and collaborative partnerships, preparing clinical instructors to meet the evolving needs of learners and patients, and promoting well-being for both students and educators. **Meghan M. Rysavy, OTD, OTR/L.** Dr. Rysavy is an acute care Occupational Therapist who received her Master of Occupational Therapy in 2016 and earned a post-professional Doctor of Occupational Therapy with an emphasis in teaching and learning in 2023. Her doctoral capstone project was to develop and Acute and Critical Care OT fellowship at Mayo Clinic, which has recently achieved AOTA candidacy status. She currently serves as a Clinical Education Coordinator at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota where she facilitates Level II Fieldwork rotations for OT students using a collaborative learning model. She has mentored over 60 Level II Fieldwork students and was recognized by the University of Minnesota as the 2025 Clinical Educator of Excellence. She has achieved Instructor Rank at the Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences, is a board member of the Academy of Educational Excellence and has presented nationally on effective feedback strategies in clinical teaching. Her interest is in simulation curriculum development and advancing equity in clinical education. **Allison Calhoun, MS, OTR/L.** Dr. Calhoun has been an Occupational Therapist and educator for twenty-two years. Currently, she is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Winston-Salem State University where she also serves as the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator. During the first 12 years of her career, she worked as an OT practitioner in long term care settings, a department manager and as a consultant for creating and collaborating with programs promoting healthy aging and well-being among older adults. She received a BA in Psychology from Wake Forest University and an MS in OT from UNC-Chapel Hill. Currently she is pursuing a PhD in Occupational Science from UNC-Chapel Hill. Her interest is in supporting community collaborations. She oversaw implementation of the Tailoring Activities for Better Days (TAP) program as a part of a grant that Senior Services of Forsyth County received to address the needs of individuals living with dementia in Forsyth County, and their caregivers. She is also the partner champion from the School of Health Sciences at WSSU to support development of programs and services delivered at Senior Service's Intergeneration Center for Art and Wellness, particularly in the dedicated space that WSSU has in the building. **Sanchala Sen, OTD, MS, OTR/L, BCPR, FAOTA.** Dr. Sen has been an Occupational Therapist for more than 35 years. She completed her Bachelor's and master's degrees in OT from India, and Doctorate in PT from Chatham University, USA. Dr. Sen worked in India for 14 years as an educator and clinician in several practice settings. She moved to the USA 32 years ago and has worked in acute care, inpatient rehab, skilled nursing units, and assisted living facilities as a Lead clinician and supervisor. She completed Board Certification in Physical Rehabilitation from the American Occupational Therapy

Association in 2013. She has been teaching in the master's program in Occupation Therapy at Winston-Salem State University for the past 17 years, instructing OT students in neuro development techniques (NDT). She has presented at state, national and international OT conferences on stroke topics. She has received a clinical fieldwork educator award, master clinician and educator awards, and an excellence in community practice award, the highest Susan Scullin award from the North Carolina State Association and is a fellow of the American OT Association (FAOTA). **Chinno Ingram, Dr.OT, MS, OTR/L, PTA.** Dr. Ingram is an Assistant professor at Winston-Salem State University in the Department of Occupational Therapy with expertise in injury prevention, geriatrics and skilled nursing practice. His scholarly work includes 3D printing applications, advocacy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, leisure science, and student perceptions of pro bono clinical experiences. He is a member of the North Carolina Black Occupational Therapy Collective (NCBOTC), the North Carolina Occupational Therapy Association (NCOTA), the National Black Occupational Therapy Caucus (NBOTC), The American Occupation Therapy Association (AOTA), and a board member of the National Society of Allied Health (NSAH). A dedicated educator and innovator, he obtained the certificate in Effective Teaching and College Instruction from the Association of College and University Educators and has been honored with a Master Teaching Award from WSSU and an innovation and Leadership Award from NCOTA. His contributions to the field have been further recognized by the AOTA for excellence in writing. Through his teaching, research, and clinical practice, he continues to advance occupational therapy education and evidence-based practice.

A Theory-Driven Holistic Admissions Model for a DPT Program at an HBCU: A Case Report. S.

Christopher Owens, PT, ScD. Dr. Owens has over 30 years' experience treating patients with musculoskeletal disorders. He was recognized in 1998 by the National Strength and Conditioning Association as a certified strength and conditioning specialist. In 2006, he became a board-certified clinical specialist in orthopedics and was accepted as Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists. Dr. Owens has published several peer-review articles and presented his distinguished research in orthopedic manual physical therapy at several conferences. He has offered continuing education instruction nationally for physical therapists for the last 15 years and currently teaches musculoskeletal management in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy from the University of Connecticut and his Doctor of Science from Texas Tech University Health Science Center. Co-presenters: **Ayodele Akinremi, PT, PhD, Yolanda Rainey, PT, DPT, Pamela Tucker, PT, DPT, Hampton University,** Hampton, Virginia.

From the Classroom to the Workspace: Preparing Future Healthcare Providers for Healthcare Advocacy.

Douglas Bates, PhD, LCSW. Dr. Bates is an Associate Professor and Department Chair for the Bachelor of Social Work Program at Winston-Salem State University. He has been a faculty member at WSSU since 2018. Before his full-time role in academia Dr. Bates worked as a full-time social worker for over 10 years working with various communities, including the mentally ill, teenage mothers, children, the homeless and working poor, veterans and older adults. Currently, in addition to his faculty role at WSSU, he is also a clinical mental health therapist for his practice, Bates Counseling and Services, PLLC, located in Kernersville, North Carolina where he works with individual families. Dr. Bates also is a volunteer site visitor for the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and works with and mentors' male students that attend WSSU.

Workforce Well-Being in Higher Education Faculty: Work-Life Balance & Stress, Post Covid-19 Era.

Audrey B. Douglas-Cooke, PhD, MHA, BSN. Dr. Douglas -Cooke is an Assistant Professor of Health Sciences at Norfolk State University (NSU), where she teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in the Department of Allied Health. She currently serves as Vice President of the Faculty Senate and is the Faculty Advisor for the Health Services Management Student Association. She is also a member of NSU's Health & Wellness Committee. Dr. Douglas-Cooke brings over a decade of executive leadership experience, having served as Vice Present of Sentara Heart Hospital, where she lead the organization to Top 25 national ranking by U.S. News & World Report. Her leadership spans both academic and community sectors, with a longstanding commitment to health equity and organizational excellence. She currently chairs the Board of Directors for Langley Federal Credit Union and is Vice President of the Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation Board; and organization focused on providing affordable housing to veterans and low-income residents. She also serves on the Tidewater Board of Directors for the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC). Dr. Douglas-Cooke is deeply committed to health & wellness, addressing health disparities in under-served communities, and advancing inclusive evidence-based strategies. **Hedieh H. Sirjani, PhD, MD.** Dr. Sirjani holds a medical doctorate and a PhD in health services research. She is a certified global health researcher whose work focuses on health disparities, healthcare professional education, and preventive care. Her research covers chronic diseases such as diabetes, opioid misuse, and the older population. Dr. Sirjani is an assistant professor at Norfolk State University, teaching graduate and undergraduate programs in Allied Health. She has mentored multiple graduate and undergraduate students in research. She is also the Health Services Management Program Coordinator and coordinates the Health Science Professions Learning Community.

Surgical Precision of Human Resources Course and Its Impact on Students, New Hires, and Patient Care.

Robbaya R. Green-Weir, PhD, MHSA, CCDP. Dr. Green-Weir is an Associate Professor in the Division of Health Care Management at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. She has over 30 years in healthcare administration working in one of the top three health systems in metropolitan Detroit, MI, over 20 years higher education teaching experience and 10 years as a healthcare consultant. During her career she served as an Association of University Programs in Health Administration program reviewer; on the National Association of Health Service Executives, Florida Chapter, Leadership Team, and as one of the higher education representatives on the American college of Healthcare Executives, North Florida, Board of Directors. Her research experience includes essential soft skill competencies for new entrants in the health administration field, and health disparities. As a health administrator and healthcare consultant, she designed, executed and facilitated innovative initiatives for operation change.

Women in Highter Education: Research Success in Kinesiology and Allied Health: Hold On. **Phoebe Butler Ajibade, EdD.** Dr. Ajibade teaches health education, wellness, and community health courses. She currently teaches at North Carolina A&T State University in the Kinesiology Department, which has one of the largest degrees programs on campus. She has previously taught at Hampton University, and Florida Atlantic University. She also has served as practicum coordinator for Community Health, Aging and Long-Term Care Management at Old Dominion University, and as a research assistant for the School of Community Health and Physical Therapy at Old Dominion University. Her work with the School of Pharmacy at Hampton University helped her to design and deliver a program for high school students to develop skills for success in college. Her research examines correlates of heart disease, diabetes, kidney

disease and obesity, and interventions using physical activity, yoga, storytelling and community organization to unite groups for building better health and connections. Her research has been published in ABNF Journal, Obesity, Eating Behaviors, Journal of Black Studies, and Family and Community Health. She has presented more than 20 papers at the American Public Health Association and the Society for Health and Physical Education on topics including weight image, obesity, smoking, dance and men's health.

Pelvic Floor Physical Therapy: Evidence and Clinical Implications. **Lauren Evans, BS, SPT.** Ms. Evans is the primary presenter. **Tia Burgess, BS, SPT, Tori Forbes, BS, SPT, Ciara Huntley, BS, SPT, Tenaja Neal, BS, SPT, co-presenters.** All are Physical Therapy students in the Florida A&M University, Doctor of Physical Therapy Program in the class of 2027. **Kurt Gray, PT, DPT is faculty research lead and co-presenter.** Dr. Gray is an Assistant Professor and the Director of Clinical Education for the Florida A&M University Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program. Over the course of his clinical career, he primarily practiced in outpatient orthopedic settings with an emphasis on musculoskeletal injuries related to worker's compensation. His current teaching responsibilities include Clinical Education, Patient Care Skills, Healthcare Systems and Administration, Physical Agents and Electrotherapy. He is a Certified PWR (Parkinson's Wellness Recovery) Provider and is certified in manual therapy and functional capacity evaluations. He has served on several professional boards and remains active in the Florida Physical Therapy Association. His scholarly interests include the evaluation and treatment of musculoskeletal dysfunction and the management of chronic pain. For the past decade, he has focused on developing rigorous, high-quality clinical education experiences for DPT students. In addition, he has worked extensively to engage students in research and has co-authored multiple publications with DPT students. **Consultants: Aditi Vyas, BPT, MS, PhD.** Dr. Vyas is the National Director of Research at PT Solutions, Tallahassee, Florida. Her background in physical therapy and biological sciences has allowed her to bring a multidisciplinary approach to improving patient outcomes and healthcare efficiency. She has experience in human subject clinical research, healthcare data analysis, and the development of value-based care protocols that emphasize evidence-based practices. At PT Solutions, she leads initiatives that explore algorithm-based care models, patient outcomes and the total cost of care, collaborating with health systems, academic partners and healthcare professionals to implement cutting edge solutions. **Tracy Thomas, PT, DPT, PhD.** Dr. Thomas is a tenured professor and Director of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Florida A&M University. She earned the Doctor of Philosophy degree at Florida A&M University in 2008, majoring in Pharmaceutical Sciences (Cardiovascular Pharmacology emphasis). Her research interests are diversity in PT education, pelvic floor dysfunction, the impact of pharmacological agents on PT outcomes, and the racial disparities in treatment of cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases, diabetes (diabetes obesity, especially in children), sickle cell anemia and metabolic syndrome in females. She has co-authored related articles that have been published in Topics in Geriatric Rehabilitation, Journal of the National Society of Allied Health, US Phar, Molecular Cell Biochemistry, American Journal of Physiology, Heart Circulation Physiology, and the Journal of Applied Physiology. Her current teaching responsibilities include Professional Behaviors, Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation PT, and Pharmacology. She is a 2023 graduate of the APTA Fellowship in Higher Educational Leadership. **Phyllis Reaves, PhD.** Dr. Reaves is a tenured Associate Professor who joined the physical therapy faculty in 2003 from the University of Florida, College of Medicine Department of Physiology and Functional Genomics where she performed cardiovascular research, as well as taught human physiology, involving pharmacological effects and intervention. Her teaching responsibilities are in the basic sciences, including physiology, pathophysiology, and pharmacology. Her research interests involve the development of distinct gene therapy strategies and animal models of

angiotensin II-dependent forms of hypertension for the long-term attenuation of high blood pressure.

E-Scooters to Class, Work and Practice: Preventing Orthopedic and Head Injuries. **Phoebe Butler Ajibade, EdD.** Dr. Ajibade teaches health education, wellness, and community health courses at North Carolina A&T University in the Kinesiology Department. She previously taught at Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia, and Florida Atlantic University.

Perceptions, Experiences and Coping: A Qualitative Study of Cyberbullying Among Black College Students. **Felicia N. Green, DrPH, MPH.** Dr. Green is an Assistant Professor in the School of Allied Health Sciences, Division of Health Science at Florida A&M University (FAMU). She earned her Doctor of Public Health and Master of Public Health Degree with a concentration in Behavioral Sciences and Health Education, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Cardiopulmonary Science from Florida A&M University. Her research interests are in adolescent health behaviors, the health and well-being of college students with a focus on risk factors, the intersection of technology and mental health, and violence and injury prevention. Dr. Green holds professional memberships with the Florida Public Health Association and the American Public Health Association.

Exploring Community Perspectives: A Mixed-Methods Study to Understanding Firearm Unintentional Injuries and Safe Practices in Leon County. **Willie L. Williams, Dr PH.** Dr. Williams is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Health Science within the School of Allied Health Sciences at Florida A&M University (FAMU). Dr. Williams serves in several leadership roles at FAMU, including the Employer Partners Fall Advisory Board (2025), the Quality Enhancement Plan Steering Committee, and the University Athletic Committee. He also serves as faculty advisor for the Health Science Professionals Student Association and Black Men in Medicine, supporting student leadership, mentorship, and pathways into health professions. In addition to his academic role, Dr. Williams is a certified firearm instructor and Range Safety Officer, integrating public health principles into firearm safety education and injury prevention initiatives. He also serves on the Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions (ASAHP) Opportunity and Engagement Committee. His research focuses on social determinants of health among minority populations, mental health engagement and stigma among African American boys and men, minority student transitions into health professions, and firearm safety and unintentional injury prevention among youth and young adults. His work emphasizes prevention and community partnership. **Pia S. Woodley, DBA.** Dr. Woodley is an Instructor and the Internship Coordinator in the Division of Health Care Management, School of Allied Health Sciences at Florida A&M University (FAMU). She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Health Care Management from FAMU. Afterward, she was selected for a direct commission in the United States Navy as a Medical Services Corps Officer. Later, she earned a master's degree in management from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. After 20 years of honorable service, she earned a Doctor of Business Administration with a concentration in Health Administration from Northcentral University. Dr Woodley's research interests include assessment, competency-based education, art-based learning, and portfolio management. **Marilyn A. Weatherspoon, PhD.** Dr. Weatherspoon is an Assistant Professor and the Rehabilitation Services Management Certificate Coordinator in the Division of Health Science, School of Allied Health Sciences at Florida A&M University (FAMU). She earned a BS degree from FAMU in Psychology. She earned a Master of Social Work degree with a clinical concentration and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Florida State University (FSU). In

addition, she earned a Graduate Certificate in Aging Studies from the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy at FSU. She is credentialed as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) and serves on the Standards & Exam Committee. She also serves on the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association Board and the American Public Health Association Disability Section Executive Committee. Dr. Weatherspoon has over 15 years of teaching experience in higher education. She received the Center for Disability Access and Resources Honors Pacesetter Award for her research and teaching on disabilities. Her research interests are in the areas of aging with disabilities and health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities.

Poster Presenters

Does the State You Live in Make You Sick? A Quantitative Analysis of Secondary Data from the CDC's Diabetes Surveillance System by U.S. State. **Margaret Wagoner, MHA.** Ms. Wagoner is a 2025 Health Administration Master's graduate from Norfolk State University (NSU) who also obtained her bachelor's degree in psychology from NSU in 2023. An adult learner, single parent, and first-generation college graduate, Ms. Wagoner started college at 40 years of age. She now works for Sentara as a Continuing Medical Education Consultant, combining her love and respect for education with her passion for making a difference in health care. She hopes to continue this professional trajectory, as well as teach as an adjunct for Virginia Community Colleges. **Hedieh H. Sirjani, PhD, MD.** Dr. Sirjani holds a medical doctorate and a PhD in health services research. She is a certified global health researcher whose work focuses on health disparities, healthcare professional education, and preventive care. Her research covers chronic diseases such as diabetes and opioid misuse, among other topics. Dr. Sirjani is an assistant professor at Norfolk State University, teaching graduate and undergraduate programs in Allied Health. She has mentored multiple graduate and undergraduate students in research. She is the Health Services Management Program Coordinator and coordinates the Health Science Professions Learning Community. She is a member of Student Pathway Industry Collaborations & Alliances. **Alicia C. Moore, PhD, MPH.** Dr. Moore is an Assistant Professor and Program Director of the Health Services Management Program in the Department of Nursing and Allied Health at Norfolk State University Norfolk, Virginia. Her professional interests are two-fold: focusing on quality online education and health equity.

Medicare Preventive Visit Pricing: A Comparative Analysis of New and Established Patients. **Audre R. Davis, MHA.** Ms. Davis is a dedicated healthcare professional and public health practitioner who earned her Master of Healthcare Administration from Norfolk State University. She currently serves as a Disease Intervention Specialist with the Virginia Department of Health, where she leads communicable disease investigations, provides prevention counseling, and collaborates with healthcare and community partners to reduce the transmission of Syphilis, HIV, and other infectious diseases. Her work emphasizes equitable access to care, data-driven interventions, and culturally responsive engagement with vulnerable populations. Her professional interests include health equity, communicable disease prevention, population health improvement and healthcare administration. Ms. Davis is committed to advancing patient-centered systems, fostering community wellness, and developing innovative strategies that strengthen healthcare delivery for marginalized communities. **Hedieh H. Sirjani, PhD, MD.** Dr. Sirjani is an Assistant Professor at Norfolk State University, teaching graduate and undergraduate programs in Allied Health. She is the Health Services Management Program Coordinator and coordinates the Health Science Professions Learning Community. Dr. Sirjani is a certified global health researcher whose work focuses on health disparities, older populations, healthcare professional education, and preventive care.

Unequal Hearts: Social Determinants Shaping Cardiovascular Outcomes in Underrepresented Communities. **Jacoya S. Cartnail-Riddick**. Ms. Cartnail-Riddick is an undergraduate senior at Alabama State University, majoring in Health Information Management and a Public Health Educator Fellow with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). In her current role, she supports community-based public health initiatives through outreach, education, patient advocacy, and collaboration with healthcare providers and community partners, with a particular focus on individuals with mobility limitations and disability awareness. Her academic and research experiences span public health, aging, neuroscience, cancer biology, and health disparities, including competitive research fellowships at Auburn University and Alabama State University. Ms. Cartnail-Riddick has conducted laboratory-based and population-focused research, presented findings at academic conferences, and contributed to data-driven approaches aimed at improving health outcomes in underserved communities. In addition to her professional and research work, she demonstrates strong leadership as the Founder and President of Alpha Aletheia Pi Honor Society, a Golden Ambassador, and an active member of several professional organizations, including AHIMA, APHA, and ASPHN. Her scholarly and professional interests include health equity, community health education, health information systems, aging and chronic disease prevention, and the use of data and research to inform sustainable public health solutions. **Advisors: Bridgette Stasher-Booker, PhD. Yolanda Hill, MSHI, RHIA.**

Predictors of NPTE Success in a Diverse Doctor of Physical Therapy Cohort: A Retrospective Analysis. **Judy L. Foxworth, PT, PhD**. Dr. Foxworth has over 30 years of clinical experience working in a variety of physical therapy settings (in-patient, outpatient, sports medicine and home health) primarily treating patients with orthopedic dysfunctions. Dr. Foxworth is the director of the Winston-Salem State University and Wake Forest University Human Performance and Biodynamics laboratory. This unique partnership between public and private institutions is a first in the state of North Carolina. In this laboratory, physical therapy students are regularly exposed to cutting edge research often working with other health care practitioners. Dr. Foxworth has been a WSSU faculty member for over 20 years and has received several School of Health Sciences teaching and research awards. The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) recognized her as an Orthopedic Certified Specialist in 1994, 2004 and 2014. She has been an active member of APTA on the local, state and national level. She has published manuscripts in a variety of peer-reviewed scientific journals, received grant funding from the National Institute on Health (NIH), foundation funding and internal grant funding opportunities. She has presented her work at a variety of state, national and international conferences on the topics of Osteoarthritis treatment. **Cheyne Brown, DPT**. Dr. Brown graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with her DPT and became a licensed physical therapist in 2018. She has practiced in acute care settings in Alabama and North Carolina, currently maintaining an unrestricted license to practice physical therapy in North Carolina. She continues to practice PRN in an acute care hospital. She served as a clinical instructor for 4 years and is a credentialed clinical instructor level 2 through the APTA. She obtained her Board Certification in Geriatric Physical Therapy in 2021. She began working at Winston-Salem State University as the Director of Clinical Education in September 2023. **Ashley Davis, SPT, Savanna Perry, SPT and Jaden Tuitt, SPT, Winston-Salem State University.**

Impact of Repeated Use of a Driving Simulator on the Pre-Driving Skills of Individuals with IDD. **Megan Edwards Collins, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, CAPS, CFPS**. Dr. Edwards Collins is in the Occupational Therapy (OT) Department at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU). She has been at WSSU since January 2011, where she has served as the OT Department's Admissions Coordinator and is currently the Department Chair. She

is the Special Interest Section Chairperson Elect for the American Occupational Therapy Association. Dr. Edwards Collins has volunteered for several professional organizations. Her research interests include driving, community mobility, fall prevention, and assistive technology. **WSSU Occupational Therapy students: Lydia Kaysa Bravinder, Ava Nicole Clapp, Alexis Tashonna Fariior, Emily Yvonne Hernandez, Evelyn Suzanne Crumb Messick, Alana Eriksen Van Schaick, Keidra Denae Woodson.**

Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Brazilian Healthcare System: Opportunities, Challenges, and Ethical Considerations. **Kerliyah N. Joseph** is a first year Health Science Pre-Occupational Therapy scholar at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) from New Orleans, Louisiana. She is a cohort member of the School of Allied Health Sciences Living Learning Community Class of 2029, where she engaged in academic enrichment and collaborative learning experiences. **Aniya K. Bascombe** is a Health Science Pre-Physical Therapy scholar at FAMU, from Miami, Florida. She is a cohort member of the School of Allied Health Sciences Living Learning Community Class of 2029. She is engaged in academic enrichment and collaborative learning experiences. **Jenesys K. Harris** is a first year Health Science Pre-Physical Therapy scholar hailing from Chicago, Illinois. Currently, she attends FAMU and is cohort member of the School of Allied Health Sciences Living Learning Community Class of 2029. She participates in academic enrichment and collaborative learning experiences. **Kaia M. Randolph** is a first year Health Science Pre-Physical Therapy scholar at FAMU, from Tallahassee, Florida. She is a cohort member of the School of Allied Health Sciences Living Learning Community Class of 2029. She participates in academic enrichment and collaborative learning experiences. **Jaslyn D. Dukes** is a first-year, first-generation Healthcare Management Scholar from the small town of Palmetto, Florida. She attends FAMU and is a member of the School of Allied Health Sciences Living Learning Community where she engages in academic enrichment and collaborative learning experiences.

The Lack of Adherence of the General Population to Vaccines in Brazil. **Hyjah M. Bennett** is a first year Healthcare Informatics and Information Management scholar with a minor in Cybersecurity, hailing from South Florida. She attends FAMU and is a cohort member of the School of Allied health Sciences Living Learning Community Class of 2029. **Kingston W. Chisolm** is a first year Pre-Physical Therapy major hailing from Jacksonville, Florida. He attends FAMU and is a cohort member of the School of Allied Health Sciences Living Learning Community Class of 2029. He is a new inductee of Black Men in Medicine, along with serving as the Freshman Class President at FAMU. **Aniyah M. Buckley** is a first year General Health Sciences scholar hailing from Athens, Georgia. He attends FAMU and is a cohort member of the School of Allied Health Sciences Living Learning Community for the Class of 2029. She serves as the Vice President of the Freshman Class. **Promys Y. Smith** is a first year Pre-Occupational Therapy scholar, from Alexander City, Alabama. She is a cohort member of the School of Allied Health Sciences Living Learning Community, Class of 2029.

The Current State of Professionals Preparing to Enter Geriatric Care Fields in Brazil. **Ariyana Exantus** is a first year Health Science General scholar from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She attends FAMU. She is a part of the cohort of the School of Allied Health Sciences Living Learning Community. **Marecia S. Young** is a first year Health Science Pre-Physical Therapy scholar from Orlando, Florida. She attends FAMU and is a cohort member of the School of Allied Health Sciences Living Learning Community. **Summer K. Littles** is a first year Health Science Pre-Cardiopulmonary scholar from Prince George's County, Maryland. She attends FAMU and is a cohort member of the School of Allied Health Sciences Living Learning Community.

Autism and ADHD Diagnoses in Brazil: Addressing Gaps Through Early Intervention and Inclusive Policy.

Taliyah K. O'Neal is a first-year Pre-Physical Therapy scholar from East Hartford, Connecticut. She attends FAMU and is a cohort member of the School of Allied Health Sciences Living Learning Community, Class of 2029. **Tori LiVian Richardson** is a first year Health Sciences Pre-Physical Therapy student from Tallahassee, Florida. She attends FAMU and is a member of the School of Allied Health Sciences Living Learning Community, Class of 2029, the Big Sister Little Sister mentoring Program, Inc., and the FAMU Weightlifting Club. She is engaging in an internship with FAMU's Strength and Conditioning team that is continuing through the spring semester. **Karlee J. Parker** is a first year Healthcare Management scholar from the Highest of 7 Hills, Tallahassee, Florida. She attends FAMU and is a cohort member of the School of Allied Health Sciences Living Learning Community, Class of 2029. She is an inductee of Esther Funds Foundation to aid in preventing college dropouts through ministry, service, and financial scholarships. She participates in the Student Healthcare Management Association in the School of Allied Health Sciences, to improve her connections and professional development. She attends Family Worship Praise Center Prayer Group to find community, faith and encouragement. **Sidney L. Radford** is a first year Health Science Pre-Physical Therapy scholar from Clarksville, Tennessee. She participates with multiple organizations at FAMU and is an active cohort member of the School of Allied Health Sciences Living Learning Community, Class of 2029. She is a member of the Family Worship and Praise Center Prayer Group, FAMU Physicians in Training and HER University Incorporated. Through HER University, she has been elected and serves as a freshman group leader. She also works with the FAMU Athletics Strength and Conditioning Department as an intern through the spring semester. **Zyra L. Ward** is a first year Pre-Physical Therapy scholar from Havana, Florida. She attends FAMU and is a cohort member of the School of Allied Health Sciences Living Learning Community, Class of 2029.

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Epsilon Tau Sigma (ETS) Honor Society

Epsilon Tau Sigma (ETS) is the Honor Society of the National Society of Allied Health (NSAH) whose membership includes students enrolled in the allied health programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) that are Institutional Members of the NSAH. The motto of the society is “Excellence Through Service” and the colors of the Society are black and red.

The purposes of the Society are to:

- Promote high standards of scholarship, academic achievement, and professionalism among Allied Health students at traditional and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
- Foster service to the masses of people in our communities who are ill, underprivileged, ill-housed, and impoverished.
- Strive always to live lives which exemplify and fulfill the tenants of the Legacy of Mary McLeod Bethune.

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Undergraduate

- Bachelor of Science in Health Services Management - Online (HSM)
- Bachelor of Science in Health Services Management/ Food Science and Nutrition Concentration (HSM|FSN)
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
- RN to BSN
- Certificate of Health Services Management - Online

Graduate

- Master of Healthcare Administration - Online (MHA)
- Master of Health Informatics - Online (MHI)
- Master of Public Health (MPH)



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LEAD WITH KNOWLEDGE, COMPASSION, AND PURPOSE.

Grounded in excellence and service, our health sciences programs are designed to meet the evolving needs of our communities. WSSU graduates are well-prepared to excel in professional practice, education, and leadership roles across the healthcare continuum.



WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

School of Health Sciences

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Alabama State University College of Health Sciences

BUILT ON LEGACY DRIVEN BY CARE.

Rooted in Alabama State University's proud legacy of access, excellence, and service the College of Health Sciences prepares the next generation of health care leaders to confront today's most urgent health challenges with skill, compassion, and purpose.

In-Demand Degree Programs

➤ **Undergraduate**

- Health Information Management (BS)
- Rehabilitation Services (BS)
(Concentration in Addiction Studies)
- Maternal & Child Health
(Certificate/Minor)

➤ **Graduate & Doctoral**

- Occupational Therapy (OTD)
- Prosthetics & Orthotics (MSPO)
- Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC)
- Physical Therapy (DPT)

➤ **Learn in State-of-the-Art Facilities**

Inside the 80,000-square-foot John L. Buskey Health Sciences Center, students train in advanced clinical labs that mirror real-world practice, including cadaver anatomy, biomechanics, cardiovascular & pulmonary care, orthotics & prosthetics, counseling, health information, and daily living simulation labs.

Hands-on learning begins on day one.

➤ **Purpose-Driven. Profession-Ready.**

Our graduates deliver evidence-based care, champion equity, and work to eliminate health disparities across communities.

College of Health Sciences.

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Degree Programs Offered

Undergraduate Programs

- ▶ Cardiopulmonary Science
- ▶ Health Care Management
- ▶ Health Informatics and Information Management
- ▶ Health Science (HS)
(HS General, Pre-Occupational Therapy and Pre-Physical Therapy)

Graduate Programs

- ▶ Masters of Science in Health Care Administration
- ▶ Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy
- ▶ Doctor of Physical Therapy

The School of Allied Health Sciences (SOAHS) is one of three health professional schools at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU). The school was established to recognize the need to provide access to quality education in a group of rapidly growing health professions.



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