



Staff Updates: Higher Education

Neil Harvison, PhD, OTR, FNAP, FAOTA
October 11, 2023

Highlights from the higher ed desk...

- Reaction to the Affirmative Action Decision.
- State level Anti-DEI Legislation in higher education.
- Competency based education model.
- Gainful Employment Rules.
- Financial challenges in higher education.
- Artificial Intelligence.



Reaction to the Affirmative Action Decision

The decision...

Thursday, June 29, 2023.

The Supreme Court struck down affirmative action in college admissions, declaring race cannot be a factor in admissions decisions.



Reaction to the decision...

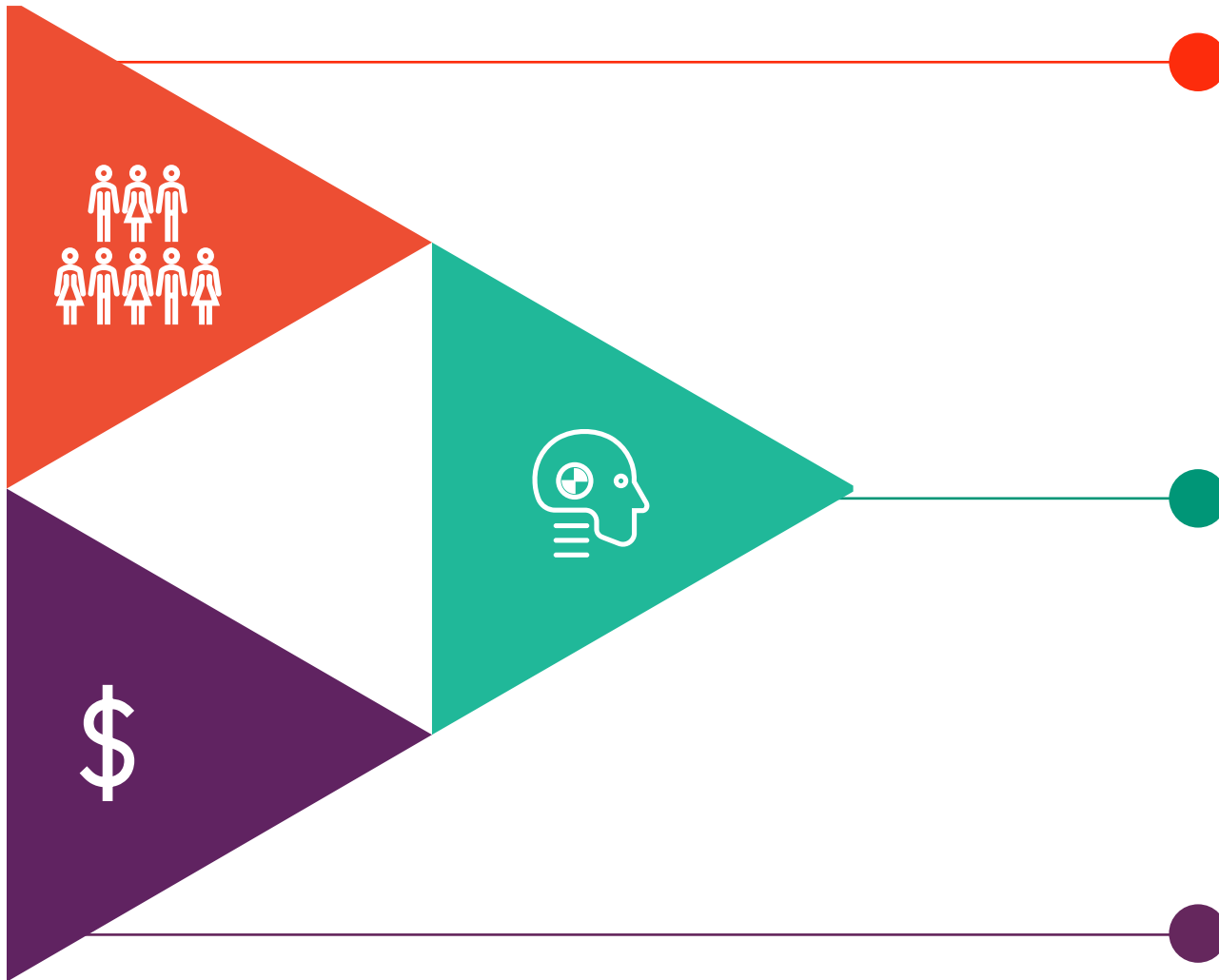
The American Occupational Therapy Association is disappointed in the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling

As stated in Occupational Therapy's Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, "**Academic programs must consider integration of intentional strategies to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout all phases of the academic continuum, including student recruitment, student admissions, teaching of content and coursework, curriculum design, and assessment.**"

As we evaluate the implications of this ruling, we reassert our steadfast commitment to building a more diverse and inclusive profession that is strengthened by the diversity of its practitioners and equipped to address the needs of clients of all backgrounds and identities.

Moving on with the new reality...

Admissions



Holistic Admission

Focus on evaluating applicants' demonstrated capacity and strengths in light of the resources and opportunities available to them.

Eliminate Standardized Testing

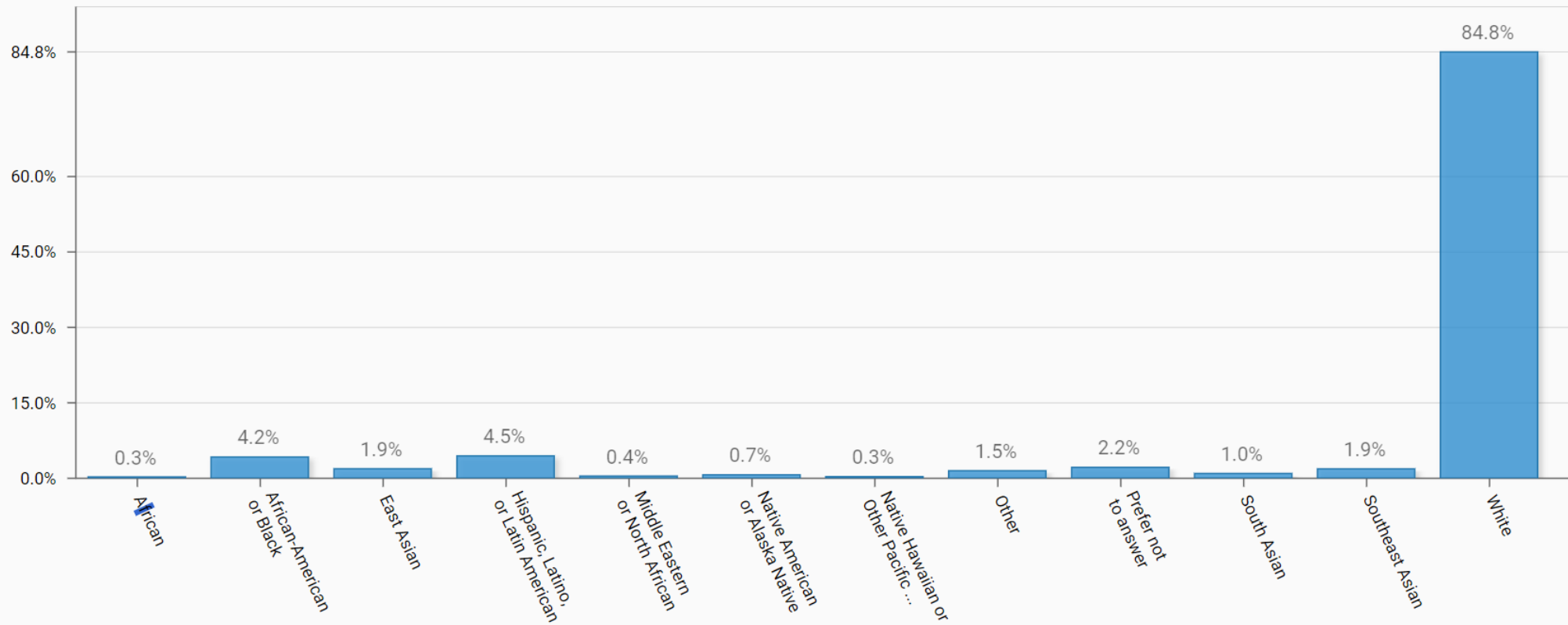
Negatively impacts racially and economically marginalized students. Evidence that moving away from test scores and focusing on academic rigor represent potentially promising strategies for expanding access at institutions.

Reduce Cost & Secondary Admission Requirements

Access to experience in the field, volunteer hours, observation requirements, recommendations from health professionals, weighting of GPA's based on college

Why: 2023 Workforce Survey

Ethnic/Racial Identity



One Initiative ...

FASHP Men of Color in the Health Professions Consensus Statement

- Declared the low number of historically underrepresented men of color (HUMOC) graduating and entering the health care professions a national crisis.
- Failure to adequately address the underrepresentation of MOC in the health professions will perpetuate and worsen education and health disparities, particularly for underserved communities.



Historically Underrepresented Men of Color Work Group (HUMOC)



Vikram Pagpatan
EdD, OTR/L

FASHP membership includes:

- Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)
- Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA)
- Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges (AANMC)
- American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)
- Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
- American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)
- American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)
- American Psychological Association (APA)
- American Dental Education Association (ADEA)
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)
- Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA)
- Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
- American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT)
- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)
- Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions (ASAHP)
- American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM)
- Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC)

State level Anti-DEI Legislation in higher education



44

Bills
introduced
across **22**
states



7

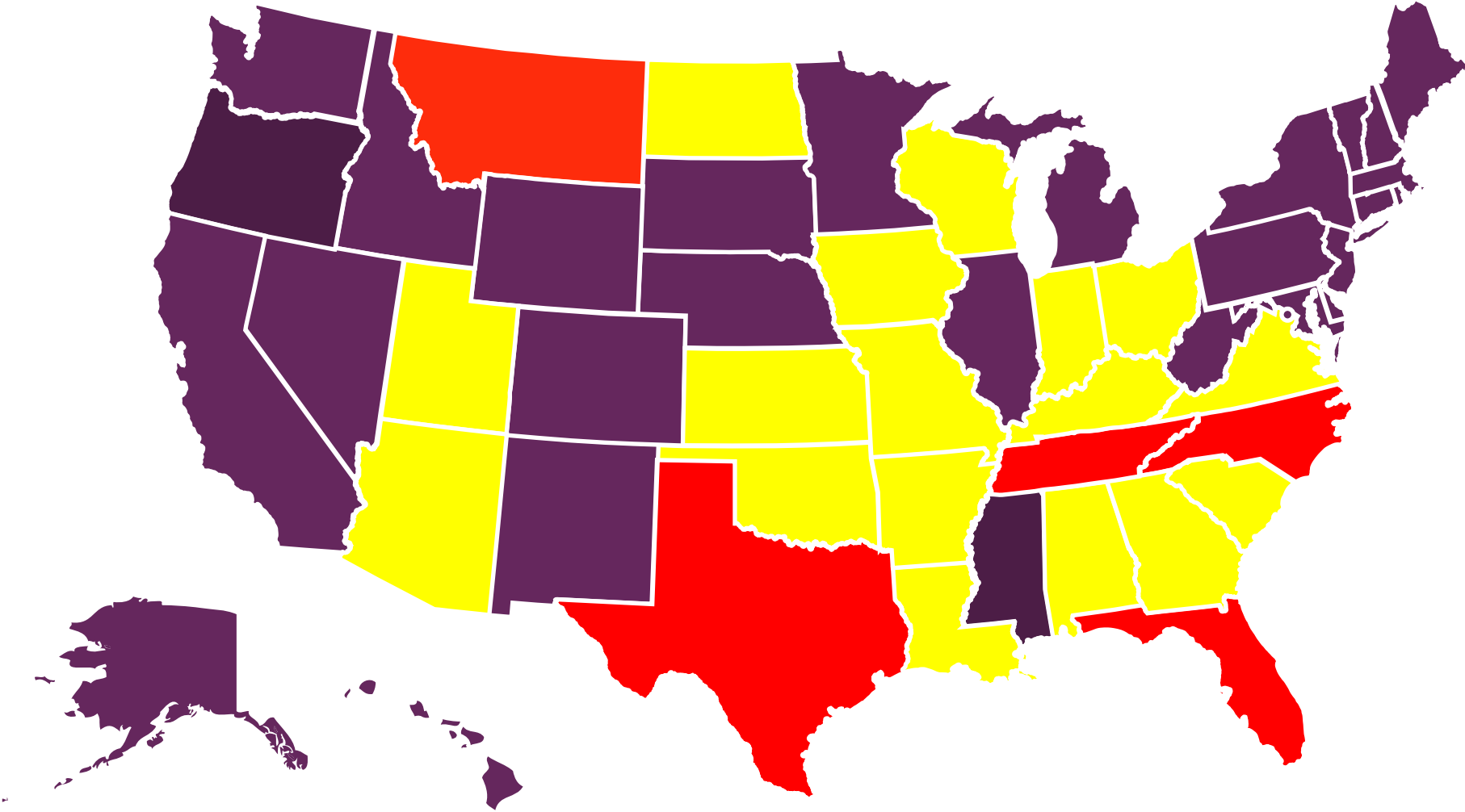
Passed by
legislature.



7

Passed into
LAW.

States with Anti-DEI Legislation



What the Bills/ Laws say...

prohibit colleges from having diversity, equity, and inclusion offices

ban mandatory diversity training

prohibit institutions from using diversity statements in hiring and promotion

prohibit colleges from using race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in admissions or employment

Not a coincidence that they look the same...



Also on the state legislation side...

October 10, 2023

North Carolina Forces Changes to Accreditation

A new law will require public institutions to change accreditors every cycle. Passed quietly with no debate, the bill follows similar legislation passed in Florida.

Competency based education...

Representative Assembly: CBE Task Group

2021

RA appointed a task group to examine the growing number of entry-level competencies (standards).

2023 (spring)

Task group recommended...explore a competency-based educational approach as it may lend itself to a reduction in standards.

2023 (fall)

RACC appointed a task group to explore competency-based education.
(represent: COE, SIS, ACOTE®)

Task Group Charge

-
- Identify and articulate the rationale for potentially shifting entry-level programs to a CBE model.
 - Identify and articulate approaches being undertaken by other professions in the USA, and where applicable OT education in other countries, in implementing CBE models in the entry-level programs.
 - Identify the strengths and challenges of each approach and the resources required.
 - Articulate the “readiness” of educational programs in the USA in making a possible transition to CBE models.
 - Articulate recommendations on next steps and if applicable timelines required to facilitate transition to CBE model.

Timeline



Task Group

| Professional Role | Primary Employment | Leadership |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| OTA | OTA Educator/ AFWC | COE |
| OTA | Practice - MH | MHSIS |
| OT | OT Education- rural/public | ACOTE® |
| OT | OT Education- public | COE/ALC |
| OT | OT Education- private | RA Future Planning |
| OT | OTA Education | ALC |
| OT | Practice – acute care | Fellowship/ CCPD |
| OT | OT Education | ALC |
| OT | OT Education | MDI Network |
| Staff – Neil | | |

Gainful Employment Rules...

**New rules (775 pages) published in
September 2023.**

Remember...

Gainful Employment Rules apply in the following scenarios:

- ALL programs offered at for-profit institutions (degree and non-degree).
- All non-degree programs in any sector.

New Rules



Financial Value Transparency (FVT) framework providing students in all programs detailed information about the net costs of postsecondary programs and the financial outcomes they can expect.



“debt-to-earnings ratio” must be less than or equal to 8%, or less than or equal to 20% of their discretionary earnings (defined as their annual earnings minus 150% of the federal poverty guideline).



At least half of graduates have higher earnings than a typical high school graduate in their state’s labor force who never enrolled in postsecondary education.

A political football so why do we care...

**Obama
Administration
introduced
rules.**

**Trump
Administration
removed rules.**

**Biden
Administration
new rules.**

Financial challenges in higher education...

Quick Statistics...

- At least 44 public or nonprofit colleges have closed, merged, or announced closures or mergers since March 2020.
- Prior to 2020 the overwhelming number of closures were for-profit schools.
- Just over half of students who experienced a college closure did not re-enroll (52.9%).

● October 02, 2023

Citing Significant Budget Deficits, Several Colleges Face Cuts

The affected institutions include Christian Brothers, Delta State, Lane Community College, Miami University, St. Norbert and Shepherd.

By [Doug Lederman](#)

Many of the institutions appear to have been motivated by fall enrollment numbers that did not meet their expectations, in most cases representing a failure to recover from record low enrollments during the pandemic. Others cited the lingering effects on enrollment and budgets from COVID-19, exacerbated by the end of federal relief funds.

Most at Risk

- Private, non-profit,
- Lack a national reputation,
- Rely heavily on tuition income to fuel the school budget,
- Discounting tuition above 40% to attract students,
- Small endowment and significant debt,
- **Limited program offerings focused on liberal arts.**
- 5-10 small non-profit schools are closing a year

Strategy

Race to diversify program offerings and add online programs.

Fall 2023 Undergraduate Admissions

- CAS reports a significant increase in applications in 2023.
- “Selective” colleges reporting increased applications and decreased acceptance rates.
- Public schools reporting increase in applications.
- Smaller regional schools continue to struggle to fill seats.

Artificial Intelligence...

October 05, 2023

Computing Pioneers Profoundly Disagree on AI Risk

Mingling with young researchers last month in Germany, luminaries in computer science debated AI's potential impact on the future of humanity.

By [Susan D'Agostino](#)

ADVICE

You've Checked Out the New AI Tools. Now What?

By [Michelle D. Miller](#) | August 17, 2023

Three steps to help you envision the role of ChatGPT — first in your academic discipline and then in your classroom.

ADVICE

Should You Add an AI Policy to Your Syllabus?

By [Kevin Gammon](#) | July 31, 2023

What to consider in drafting your own course guidelines on students' use of tools like ChatGPT.

September 25, 2023

AI Meets Med School

Adding to academia's AI embrace, two institutions in the University of Texas system are jointly offering a medical degree paired with a master's in artificial intelligence.

By [Lauren Coffey](#)

REVIEWERS' LITTLE HELPER



'We're All Using It': Publishing Decisions Are Increasingly Aided by AI. That's Not Always Obvious.

By [Taylor Svaak](#) | SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

September 29, 2023

'All in on AI' and the University

Looking beyond generative AI.

September 28, 2023

Academic Success Tip: Establish Guidelines for AI Use

As professors grapple with new technologies in the classroom, a report from Cornell offers suggestions for best practices and policies related to generative artificial intelligence.

THE CHANGING CLASSROOM



What Will Determine AI's Impact on College Teaching? 5 Signs to Watch.

By [Beth McMurtrie](#) | SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

September 28, 2023

Advisory Boards Aid in Alleviating AI Anxiety

Nearly a year after ChatGPT debuted, hundreds of educators sought advice at the Teaching and Learning With AI conference in Orlando, Fla., this week.

By [Lauren Coffey](#)

AI Means Professors Need to Raise Their Grading Standards

ChatGPT has transformed grade inflation from a minor corruption to an enterprise-destroying blight.

ADVICE



AI in the Classroom Is a Problem. Professors Are the Solution.

We must embrace attention to writing in all fields and at all levels, not just in first-year composition courses.

By [Naomi S. Baron](#) | OCTOBER 3, 2023

What does ChatGPT say....

Artificial Intelligence (AI) can play a significant role in Occupational Therapy (OT) by enhancing the assessment, treatment, and overall care provided to individuals with various physical, cognitive, and emotional challenges. Here are some keyways in which AI can be applied in Occupational Therapy:

Assessment and Diagnosis:

- AI-powered tools can assist in the assessment of patients' functional abilities, helping OTs gather data on patients' physical and cognitive limitations.
- Machine learning algorithms can analyze patient data, such as medical records, imaging, and sensor data, to aid in the diagnosis and understanding of conditions that affect occupational performance.

Personalized Treatment Plans:

- AI can help OTs create personalized treatment plans based on individual patient data. By analyzing patient history and progress, AI can suggest modifications and adjustments to treatment plans in real-time.
- AI can recommend adaptive equipment, assistive devices, or therapeutic exercises tailored to a patient's specific needs and progress.

Rehabilitation and Training:

- Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies, often powered by AI, can be used in OT to create immersive and engaging rehabilitation exercises and activities.
- AI-driven gamification can motivate patients to complete exercises and adhere to their treatment plans.

Monitoring and Feedback:

- AI can continuously monitor patient progress, providing real-time feedback to both the patient and the therapist. For example, AI systems can track posture, movement, and compliance with prescribed exercises.
- Telehealth platforms with AI capabilities can enable remote monitoring, making it easier for therapists to assess and guide patients from a distance.

Cognitive Rehabilitation:

- AI can assist in cognitive rehabilitation by offering brain-training games and exercises designed to improve memory, attention, and problem-solving skills.
- Natural language processing (NLP) and voice recognition technologies can aid in speech therapy for patients with communication disorders.

Predictive Analytics:

- AI can help OTs predict and prevent complications by analyzing patient data and identifying patterns or trends that may lead to issues such as pressure ulcers or falls.
- Predictive modeling can assist in resource allocation and treatment planning.

Research and Data Analysis:

- AI can facilitate research in the field of Occupational Therapy by analyzing large datasets and identifying new trends, treatments, or interventions.
- Data-driven insights can lead to the development of evidence-based practices in OT.

While AI has the potential to greatly enhance Occupational Therapy, it's **important to remember that human expertise and empathy are central to the profession.** AI should complement the work of OTs, assisting them in providing more personalized, efficient, and effective care to individuals with diverse needs. Additionally, **ethical considerations, patient privacy, and data security** must be carefully managed when implementing AI in healthcare settings.

Thank you



VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION AND
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American
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