

I am thrilled to be starting my term as president of NCOTA this month! Since moving to North Carolina in 2016, I have had the pleasure of working alongside passionate and skilled OTs, OTAs, and students from across the state through my membership and involvement with NCOTA, while developing a new OT program at Methodist University in Fayetteville, and contributing to the Early In/Exceptional Children program with Cumberland County Schools. It was this organization that helped me to feel at home in a new state, assembled my new network of colleagues, and found a place for me to engage from my new starting point. I hope we can offer the same to you!

I would like to thank Beth Hathaway for her incredible leadership as President for the past two years. Beth spearheaded the establishment of our NCOTA Student Scholarship and initiated the development of a Student Board Member position. In collaboration with the executive board and Board Administrator, NCOTA instituted a new budgeting and financial management process and increased our profits from conference events significantly. In continuation of the leadership of Amy Mahle before her, NCOTA established the Special Interest Section Coordinator position that has increased the value and reach of the SIS groups. Stay tuned to see the SIS member benefit expand even more! Beth has accomplished much for our association in her two years. I am excited to carry the torch forward and continue to advance the occupational therapy profession in the state!

As I embark on my term as NCOTA President, I am looking forward to our annual conferences. We are already planning a wonderful event for November 1-3, 2019 in Raleigh with AOTA past-president, Amy Lamb, as our Keynote Speaker! I hope you will consider submitting a short-course proposal or registering as a vendor in our exhibit hall. Our 2020 Fall Conference will be held in New Bern. Through our expanding continuing education, networking, and advocacy initiatives, I hope to carry on the effort to reach students and practitioners in all parts of the state.

One major project that I hope to accomplish in my term is to formalize a strategic plan and vision for the organization. I hope that you will feel welcome to contribute to this process. Please share your thoughts, insights, and feedback regarding the state of OT in NC with me at any time. In addition to early childhood practice and OT education, one of my great passions is professional and political advocacy. You will see new and unique opportunities to collaborate with our Legal-Political Chair and Association lobbyist to get involved and advocate for OT!

I value the development of relationships, shared learning, and commitment to our profession in a way that is inclusive, respectful, and supportive. I welcome your input and involvement in advancing occupational therapy from wherever you are situated. Join us...as a conference attendee, at an SIS networking event, as a board member or committee volunteer, on Hill Day, or as a presenter on our conference faculty! It is an honor and privilege to serve you as President for the next two years!

*Meredith Granski, OTD, OTR/L, CLA*