



## 2026 ILOTA Student Conclave Schedule

**Saturday, March 21, 2026**

**Midwestern University – Downers Grove, Illinois**

<p>7:30 am – 8:00 am Hyde Atrium</p>	<p>Registration / Coffee / Continental Breakfast Sponsors' Exhibit Area Open</p>
<p>8:00 am – 9:15 am Rooms 154, 156, 158</p>	<p>"NBCOT® National Certification Exam: Information You Need to Know" Catherine Killian, OTD, MEd, OTR/L, NBCOT Ambassador for Illinois</p>
<p>9:25 am – 10:40 am Rooms 154, 156, 158</p>	<p>Keynote Presentation: "Inspiring Students to Lead Today, Tomorrow, and Throughout Their Future" Liz Zubenko, OTR/L Jennifer Summers, OTD, OT/L, FNAP</p>
<p>10:40 am – 11:25 am Rooms 154, 156, 158</p>	<p>"How to Market Your Experience on the Job Hunt" Ryan Cleaveland, CEO, Spotter Staffing</p>
<p>11:25 am – 11:45 am Rooms 154, 156, 158</p>	<p>"Does Frank Get the Job?" Interviewee: Frank Czuba, DrOT, OTR/L Interviewer: Ryan Cleaveland, CEO, Spotter Staffing</p>
<p>11:45 am – 12:00 pm Hyde Atrium</p>	<p>Visit sponsors, network with presenters and other attendees.</p>
<p>12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Hyde Atrium</p>	<p>Luncheon (Pick up Box Lunch in the Atrium – Special Dietary Requests: Look for Your Name on the Box)</p>

<p>12:00 pm – 3:00 pm</p> <p>Rooms 251, 253, 255, 257, and 259</p>	<p>Resume Reviews (Optional)</p> <p>(If you signed up – see separate schedule)</p>	
<p>1:00 pm – 1:50 pm</p> <p>Rooms 154, 156, 158</p>	<p>“Balancing the Doing: Creating Sustainable Work–Life Balance as an OT/OTA Student and New Practitioner”</p> <p>Frank Czuba, DrOT, OTR/L</p>	
<p>2:00 pm – 2:50 pm</p>	<p><b>Breakout Session 1:</b></p> <p>"Confidence, Competence, Certification: NBCOT Prep in Action — A Panel of Recent Grads"</p> <p>Sarah L. Austin, PhD (Facilitator)</p> <p>Olivia Mellinger, COTA/L Georgette Melus, COTA/L Jan Kirsten K Cabatu, OTR/L (Additional panelist: TBA)</p> <p>Room 254</p>	<p><b>Breakout Session 2:</b></p> <p>"Finding Your Lane in Hand Therapy, Electives, Mentorship, and State Association Involvement"</p> <p>Maud Makoni, OTD, MA, CHT Laura Carlos, OTR/L, CHT, CEAS 1 Theresa Christopher, OTD, OTR/L, CAPS Kimberly Anderson, MS, OTR/L, CHT</p> <p>Room 256</p>
<p>3:00 pm – 3:50 pm</p>	<p><b>Breakout Session 3:</b></p> <p>"Fieldwork Mastery: Insights and Advice from OT Practitioners and a Panel of Recent Grads"</p> <p>Beverly Menninger, MA, OTR/L (Co-Facilitator) Phyllis Hughes, DrOT, OTR/L (Co-Facilitator)</p> <p>Kelsey Ulrich, MOT, OTR/L Carson Lane, MOT, OTR/L Olivia Mellinger, COTA/L Georgette Melus, COTA/L</p> <p>Room 254</p>	<p><b>Breakout Session 4:</b></p> <p>"Thriving in Occupational Therapy: OT Frameworks to Support Resilience and Prevent Professional Burnout"</p> <p>Laura Mraz, OTD, OTR/L</p> <p>Room 256</p>
<p>4:00 pm</p> <p>Rooms 154, 156, 158</p>	<p>Closing Remarks and Raffle</p> <p>Beverly Menninger, MA, OTR/L – ILOTA President (2024-26)</p> <p>Join us for this brief wrap-up session and be eligible for our raffle to win one of three FREE ILOTA Student Memberships!</p>	

Professional Headshot Photos: Available from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm.  
Check with the ILOTA registration desk for exact location.

**Thank You to our 2026 ILOTA Student Conclave Sponsors!**

