

## Illinois Occupational Therapy Association Awards

Purpose/Description	Eligibility	Criteria
<p><b>Award of Appreciation</b></p> <p>1. Recognizes an individual, group or organization that demonstrates support and advocacy for the advancement of occupational therapy in the State of Illinois.</p> <p>2. Maximum of three awarded yearly</p>	<p>The nominee(s) shall be:</p> <p>1. An individual or a group of individuals who is/are not occupational therapy practitioner(s); or an organization.</p>	<p>1. The nominee(s) has/have promoted the advancement of occupational therapy in one or more of the following ways, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers time, funds, or supplies for activities supporting the profession</li> <li>• Demonstrates advocacy for the profession</li> <li>• Establishes relationships with legislative personnel, regulatory agencies, or organizations to advocate for provision of services by an occupational therapy practitioner</li> <li>• Involvement in organizations and activities related to occupational therapy and the persons served by the profession</li> </ul>
<p><b>Award of Merit</b></p> <p>1. Honors a member of the ILOTA who has shaped the course of occupational therapy in the State of Illinois.</p> <p>2. Honors a member of the ILOTA who has made a comprehensive and sustained contribution to the growth and development of occupational therapy in the State of Illinois.</p> <p>3. Maximum of one awarded yearly</p>	<p>The nominee(s) shall be:</p> <p>1. A licensed occupational therapy practitioner and a member in good standing of the ILOTA at the time of nomination and receipt of the award.</p> <p>2. An individual or a group of individuals.</p>	<p>1. The nominee(s) shall have made an outstanding contribution to the profession of occupational therapy in more than one of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• occupational therapy practice</li> <li>• education</li> <li>• research</li> <li>• administration</li> <li>• leadership</li> </ul> <p>2. Nominees' contributions have benefited the profession in Illinois.</p>
<p><b>Board Award of Merit</b></p> <p>1. To recognize individuals on the ILOTA Board who have made outstanding contributions toward facilitating board business, and advancing the practice of occupational therapy in the State of Illinois</p> <p>2. Maximum of three awarded yearly</p>	<p>The nominee shall be:</p> <p>1. A licensed occupational therapy practitioner, and a member in good standing of the ILOTA at the time of the nomination and receipt of the award.</p> <p>2. Currently serving on the Board or has transitioned off of the Board in the previous year</p> <p>3. Members of the Board are eligible. This includes: Executive Board and Full Board members.</p> <p>4. Nominees may be individuals or a group of individuals.</p>	<p>1. The nominee(s) shall have provided outstanding service in their role(s) on the Board benefitting both the profession and ILOTA in one or more of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special achievement in administration, management, or leadership on the Board.</li> <li>• Special contributions toward identifying the professional needs of the membership and establishing objectives/procedures to meet those needs through their role on the Board.</li> <li>• Further consideration for time served and impact in their role</li> </ul>

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<b>Occupational Therapist of the Year</b> 1. Recognizes an occupational therapist who has made significant contributions which impact the ILOTA and advance occupational therapy in Illinois. 2. Maximum of one awarded yearly	The nominee shall be: 1. A licensed occupational therapist and a member in good standing of the ILOTA at the time of nomination and receipt of the award. 2. Minimum of 5 years of demonstrated contributions 3. Nominees must be individuals.	1. The nominee shall have demonstrated excellence in one or more of the following areas: clinical practice, research, administration and/or leadership; participation in clinical or academic education programs, publications, oral presentations, or media activities 2. Further consideration for years of service and impact of sustained activity
<b>Occupational Therapy Assistant of the Year:</b> 1. Recognizes an occupational therapy assistant who has made significant contributions which impact the ILOTA and advance occupational therapy in the State of Illinois. 2. Maximum of one awarded yearly	The nominee shall be: 1. A licensed occupational therapy assistant and a member in good standing of the ILOTA at the time of nomination and receipt of the award. 2. Minimum of 5 years of demonstrated contributions 3. Nominees must be individuals.	1. The nominee shall have demonstrated excellence in one or more of the following areas: clinical practice, research, administration and/or leadership; participation in clinical or academic education programs, publications, oral presentations, or media activities 2. Further consideration for years of service and impact of sustained activity
<b>Outstanding Occupational Therapy Student Award</b> 1. Recognizes an occupational therapy student who has demonstrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• leadership and excellence in academic or clinical performance.</li> <li>• exceptional ability to promote occupational therapy through their activities.</li> </ul> 2. Provides an incentive for occupational therapy students to contribute to the profession at the student level of professional preparation. 3. Maximum of one awarded yearly	The nominee shall be: 1. Current ILOTA member in good standing at the time of nomination and receipt of award 2. Student member of ILOTA during their academic coursework and fieldwork. 3. Enrolled as a student within an ACOTE approved institution located in Illinois. The nominee may have completed academic preparation and be engaged in fieldwork during the current nomination period. 4. Nominees must be individuals.	1. The nominee must have made a significant contribution at the student level in the areas of clinical practice, research, public relations, their student occupational therapy association, ILOTA, and/or other related activities. 2. Qualifying evidence relevant to consideration for the award includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written and oral communication activities.</li> <li>• Leadership of and participation in a student occupational therapy organization.</li> <li>• Participation in ILOTA</li> <li>• Participation in AOTA</li> <li>• Involvement in organizations and activities related to occupational therapy and the persons served by the profession.</li> </ul>
<b>Outstanding Occupational Therapy Assistant Student Award</b> 1. Recognizes an occupational therapy assistant student who has demonstrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• leadership and excellence in academic or clinical performance.</li> </ul>	The nominee shall be: 1. Current ILOTA member in good standing at the time of nomination and receipt of award 2. Student member of ILOTA during their academic coursework and fieldwork. 3. Enrolled as a student within an ACOTE approved institution located in Illinois. The	1. The nominee must have made a significant contribution at the student level in the areas of clinical practice, research, public relations, their student occupational therapy association, ILOTA, and/or other related activities. 2. Qualifying evidence relevant to consideration for the award includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written and oral communication activities.</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• exceptional ability to promote occupational therapy through their activities.</li> </ul> 2. To provide an incentive for occupational therapy assistant students to contribute to the profession at the student level of professional preparation. 3. Maximum of one awarded yearly	nominee may have completed academic preparation, and be engaged in fieldwork during the current nomination period. 4. Nominees must be individuals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership of and participation in a student occupational therapy organization.</li> <li>• Participation in ILOTA.</li> <li>• Participation in AOTA.</li> <li>• Involvement in organizations and activities related to occupational therapy and the persons served by the profession.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Awareness Award:</b> 1. Recognizes members of the ILOTA or non-members, who have made outstanding contributions toward increasing the public's awareness and understanding of the value of occupational therapy. 2. Expands awareness of the profession to potential future occupational therapy practitioners. 3. Maximum of one awarded yearly	The nominee shall be: 1. A licensed occupational therapy practitioner and a member in good standing of ILOTA at the time of nomination and receipt of the award, an OT or OTA student, or a non-member who is not an occupational therapy practitioner or OT/OTA student 2. Nominees may be individuals or a group of individuals.	1. The nominee(s) shall have provided an outstanding contribution to the public's awareness and understanding of the value of occupational therapy through one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• radio, television, social media, blogs</li> <li>• newspapers, journals, magazines</li> <li>• presentations to community groups</li> <li>• participation in student recruitment activities through organization and leadership</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Occupational Therapy Assistant/Occupational Therapist (OTA/OT) Partnership Award</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotes the collaborative model of practitioners (OTA/OT) in the advancement of the occupational therapy profession in Illinois</li> <li>Recognizes exemplary collaborative intraprofessional partnerships</li> <li>Maximum of two awarded yearly</li> </ol>	<p>The partnership shall be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Licensed occupational therapy assistant and occupational therapist teams</li> <li>Members in good standing of ILOTA at the time of the nomination and receipt of the award</li> <li>Partnership nominees shall demonstrate evidence of working collaboratively within the OTA/OT model</li> </ol>	<p>Demonstration of the OTA/OT partnership may include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a practice model or method of evaluation and/or treatment with significant application.</li> <li>Development of programs or approaches utilizing the OTA/OT partnership to enhance the education, leadership, and/or practice of occupational therapy practitioners in Illinois</li> <li>Participate in research activities that benefit the profession and reflect the OTA/OT partnership</li> <li>Collaboratively demonstrating and sharing their expertise and knowledge through publications and/or presentations at the state, regional, national, or international level.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Early Career Impact Award:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognizes efforts demonstrating significant contributions to the ILOTA Strategic Plan by an occupational therapy practitioner in the first five years of their career</li> <li>Maximum of one awarded yearly</li> </ol>	<p>The nominee shall be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A licensed occupational therapy practitioner for 5 years or less</li> <li>A member in good standing of ILOTA at the time of the nomination and receipt of the award</li> <li>Nominees must be individuals.</li> </ol>	<p>The nominee shall have demonstrated significant contributions which may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing emerging practice</li> <li>Advocacy</li> <li>Service to ILOTA</li> <li>The profession's body of knowledge</li> <li>Leadership, and/or</li> <li>Volunteerism</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Political Action Award:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognizes promotion of occupational therapy practice, payment for occupational therapy, or disability rights in the political arena</li> <li>2. Maximum of one awarded yearly</li> </ol>	<p>The nominee(s) shall be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Licensed occupational therapy practitioners or current OTA or OT students</li> <li>2. Members in good standing of ILOTA at the time of the nomination and receipt of the award</li> <li>3. Nominees may be individuals or a group of individuals.</li> </ol>	<p>The nominee(s) shall have demonstrated contributions at the statewide or local level in Illinois in one or more of the following, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking a leadership role in planning and implementing legislative or policy advocacy</li> <li>• Initiating meetings and actions with elected or appointed officials as part of an advocacy campaign</li> <li>• Leading a political action initiative and recruiting others to join in the initiative to influence state legislation, regulations, or policies. Educating legislators or other key government officials about the purpose and function of occupational therapy</li> <li>• Playing an active role in the Illinois Occupational Therapy Political Action Committee (IOTPAC)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mentor Award:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognizes an occupational therapy practitioner (clinician, supervisor, educator, or researcher) who has demonstrated outstanding mentorship of a student, colleague, or employee in a sustained partnership in practice, academic, or research contexts, wherein</li> </ol>	<p>The nominee shall be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A licensed occupational therapy practitioner</li> <li>2. A member in good standing of ILOTA at the time of the nomination and receipt of the award</li> <li>3. Nominees must be individuals.</li> </ol>	<p>The nominee(s) shall have demonstrated outstanding mentorship in one or more of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advising and guiding the mentee(s) effectively</li> <li>• Advocacy (i.e., advocating on behalf of the mentee, or coaching self-advocacy of the mentee(s))</li> <li>• Teaching the mentee(s) specific skills/strategies or providing resources/opportunities for independent learning</li> </ul>

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<p>mutual respect, guidance, and knowledge is shared.</p> <p>2. Maximum of one awarded yearly</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicating effectively and facilitating the mentee's progress toward achieving professional development goals.</li> <li>Serving as an inspiring role model for the mentee(s)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Innovative Practice Award:</b></p> <p>1. Recognizes an occupational therapy practitioner whose efforts improve the provision of occupational therapy services in Illinois.</p> <p>2. Maximum of one awarded yearly</p>	<p>The nominee(s) shall be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A licensed occupational therapy practitioner(s)</li> <li>2. Member(s) and in good standing of ILOTA at the time of the nomination and receipt of the award</li> <li>3. Nominees may be individuals or a group of individuals.</li> </ol>	<p>1. The nominee(s) demonstrates ingenuity by envisioning, creating, designing, and implementing innovative programs, practices, partnerships, policies, and/or activities that improve and/or expand the provision of occupational therapy services</p>

**Key:**

Illinois Occupational Therapy Association (ILOTA)

American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)

Occupational Therapist (OT)

Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA)