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Wingate University Adding Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program

Wingate University is adding to its Levine College of Health Sciences roster with a doctor of occupational therapy (OTD) program. A director has been hired for the program, and the first cohort of students is expected to begin coursework in the fall of 2019.

Occupational therapy is a natural next step in the evolution of Wingate's health-sciences program. The first cohort of students in the doctor of physical therapy (DPT) program graduated in December of 2016, and Wingate also offers doctor of pharmacy, physician assistant studies and nursing programs. In 2016-2017, just over 20 percent of Wingate's nearly 3,200 students were in graduate health-sciences programs.

The field of occupational therapy, which is closely related to physical therapy, is growing rapidly. U.S. News and World Report cited occupational therapy as one of the 15 best careers of 2015. The average OT salary in North Carolina is \$80,000, and there are only 2,520 registered OTs in the state. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, demand for OTs and OT assistants is expected to increase from 2010 to 2020 at a rate 33% faster than the average occupation.

"Because of the success of our physical therapy program, and because of the need that we have locally, occupational therapy was a natural consideration," says Wingate University President Dr. Rhett Brown.

Earlier this year, Brown received a strong recommendation from Wingate University's Board of Trustees to add OTD to the University's offerings. Pending pre-accreditation, the program will accept its first professional-program students in August of 2019.

Wingate is joining a health-sciences field that is growing fast but is far from crowded. In 2007, the United States had only five OTD programs accredited by the American Occupational Therapy Association. By the end of this year, 47 programs are expected to be accredited, candidates for accreditation, or applicants for accreditation. But demand for occupational therapists is high, and there is likely to still be a shortage of seats for qualified students.

"Nationally there is only a 17 percent acceptance rate into occupational therapy schools," says Dr. Melissa Sweetman, the director of Wingate's Department of Occupational Therapy. "That tells you that we have far too few programs for the number of qualified applicants."

Unlike physical therapy, which is more often concerned with rehabilitating a physical injury, occupational therapy concentrates on helping people who have suffered a physical or mental illness to perform everyday tasks. "I think of physical therapy as being restorative and occupational therapy as being more about accommodation," says Dr. Robert Supernaw, vice provost, Levine College of Health Sciences. "You've got a particular condition, and how do we allow you to continue to do the things that fulfill you in life without being a bystander?"

Sweetman says occupational therapists play a big role in making life better for patients and in keeping them out of the hospital – which is a huge cost-saving benefit.

"Our goal is to make sure every human being can complete the activities, which we call 'occupations,' that are important to them," she says. "Many of those things develop someone's identity of who they believe they are. But they are also basic activities that help someone stay in their home: bathing and feeding and dressing and paying bills, or working a job or doing the things they love to do – cooking or gardening or playing cards. Whatever it is people enjoy doing, when they are able to do those things they are healthier and happier."

Sweetman, who moves into her role September 1, is coming to Wingate from the Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions in Provo, Utah, where she runs the post-professional OTD program. She recently received her Ph.D. in leadership, with a concentration in education administration, from Piedmont International University.

About Wingate University: Wingate University, consistently ranked as a top-10 "best value" in the South by U.S. News & World Report, serves nearly 3,200 students on three campuses in Wingate, Charlotte and Hendersonville, N.C. Founded in 1896, the University offers 35 undergraduate majors, 35 minors, 12 career concentrations and nine pre-professional programs; master's degrees in accounting, business, education, sport management and physician assistant studies; and doctorates in education, pharmacy and physical therapy. With a 14-to-1 student/teacher ratio, Wingate students gain the tools and support needed to excel in academics and apply that learning toward an extraordinary career and life.

Cheraw Arts Commission is Seeking Talent for August Event

The Cheraw Arts Commission will present Got Talent? an Evening of Talent on Tuesday, August 15 and is seeking talented kids and adults. Performers ages 5 through adults are encouraged to participate. Singers, Dancers, Musicians, Poets, Magicians, Jugglers, Comedians and more can audition or provide a demo for consideration by organizers. The event is open to groups or individuals with no application fee to participate at this family friendly event.

Applications are available at the Cheraw Community Center. The deadline to apply is August 11. The talent event will be held at the Theatre on the Green starting at 7:00pm. There will be a \$2 admission at the door the evening of the show. Doors open at 6:30pm. Contact the Cheraw Arts Commission at 843.537.8420 x 12 for information.

JOB OPENING EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE CENTER COORDINATOR

POSITION SUMMARY: The Early Childhood Resource Center Coordinator will be responsible for managing the day to day operation of the Early Childhood Resource Center which provides a wide variety of materials and services for young children to child care providers, parents and the community. The position reports to the Executive Director.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum of AA Degree in Early Childhood Education, Education or related field
- Experience as early childhood educator preferred
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work independently as well as with a team
- Excellent skills in wide range of technology including Microsoft Office programs
- Daily use of a reliable car, valid driver's license and willingness to travel for meetings and trainings
- Ability to lift up to 50 pounds

Salary based on education and experience

Application deadline is Friday, August 4, 2017, 5:00 pm.

ACPC application and job description are available at www.ansonchildren.org
& at 117 South Greene Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170

TO APPLY: Send resume, completed ACPC application and cover letter to:

Anson County Partnership for Children
Attention: Caroline Goins, Executive Director
117 South Greene Street Wadesboro, NC 28170
caroline.goins@ansonchildren.org



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WADESBORO HOUSING AUTHORITY

will hold a public hearing at 1 p.m. on Thursday, September 28, 2017, at the Wadesboro Housing Authority Office for the purpose of receiving public comment on the agency's fiscal year 2018 Annual Plan.

A draft of the plan will be available for review at:

Wadesboro Housing Authority
200 West Short Plaza in Wadesboro
Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Job Opportunity at J.J. HAINES

Full-Time Customer Service Representative

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JJ Haines is now opening a search for either a Full-Time Customer Service Representative or a Part-Time Customer Service Representative to join our team of talented professionals.

In this role you will take calls from manufacturers, vendors, retailers and other customers who want to place orders and/or check on the status of existing orders. This position does not entail sales, telemarketing or collections.

The ideal candidate is one who has worked in a high volume call center taking 75+ calls per day, has excellent customer service and problem solving skills, knows how to operate a computer, is familiar with Word and Excel, enjoys helping others and is a true team player.

The CSR position is open and available now.

Interviews will be scheduled with candidates who meet our requirements listed above.

Interested and qualified candidates should forward resumes to Mr. Conkling at cconkling@jjhaines.com
Call 410-762-5612 or fax resumes to 410-760-1269

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