

USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

Erlinda J. Martinez, Ph.D.
President, Santa Ana College
1530 West 17th Street
Santa Ana, CA 92706

Dear Dr. Martinez:

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to write a letter of support for Santa Ana College's proposed baccalaureate degree in Occupational Studies. Certainly those of us in the occupational therapy community are well aware of the success of the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Program. The program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education but more than that it has now graduated many successful practitioners who enter the practice environment well prepared for the opportunities that await them. The academic leadership in the OTA Program is exceptional as is exemplified by the present curriculum and the success of the graduates.

The proposed B.S. degree will offer additional preparation for the complex world of health care and the maintenance of wellness that is so important to our future. It is the expectation that this additional preparation will more than prepare practitioners seeking to transition into graduate-level course work in the many occupational therapy roles that are available.

In supporting Santa Ana College's proposal, it is believed that the baccalaureate degree in Occupational Studies would increase the breadth and depth of knowledge to include:

- Specific clinical practice techniques and specialties
- Healthcare ethics
- Cultural competency
- Application of research-based evidence and documentation to build practice
- Professional growth as a practitioner and a leader

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should require additional information and support. I have worked with the Occupational Therapy Assistant program as a consultant and a Board Member and I look forward to this very positive move toward improved preparation for the occupational therapy assistant seeking to enhance his or her educational preparation to provide the best health care possible.

Sincerely,


Linda S. Fazio, Ph.D., OTR/L, LPC, FAOTA
Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy
Associate Chair of Academic and Community Program Support and Development

