

## **NEBRASKA FOUNDATION FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY RISING STAR AWARD**

Aim of the Award: To support early-career members of the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association in attending APTA regional, national, or international professional meetings or pursuing specialization. Applicants must demonstrate contributions in one of the following areas: education, research, clinical practice, or professional service. The intent is to advance evidence-based practice of Nebraska chapter members and disseminate knowledge and skills to their colleagues.

Criteria:

- APTA Nebraska membership
- Within 5 years of graduating from a PTA or PT Program
- Financial costs for attending an APTA-sponsored meeting (e.g., CSM, ELC, Academy Meetings) including travel, meeting registration, housing, and/or food expenses OR costs for registration for a specialization exam.
- The applicant must describe the plan for disseminating information following the conference or achieving specialization. Proof of dissemination from the applicant's supervisor/mentor will be required.
- A letter of support from the applicant's supervisor noting the qualities of the candidate, the benefit of the applicant attending the conference or achieving specialization for the applicant and the organization, and acknowledgement of the dissemination plan.
- NOTE: This application may be completed and reviewed prior to conference travel or sitting for specialization exam. Proof of charges will be required following the conference/exam.

## **POLICY - RISING STAR AWARD**

- A. Applications are considered on a rolling basis.
- B. No award should exceed \$1500.00.
- C. Applications will be reviewed by designated members of the Nebraska Foundation for Physical Therapy Research Committee.
- D. Individuals may receive funding once in his or her lifetime.

- E. Members of the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Foundation for Physical Therapy are not precluded from applying for funds, but care will be taken to reduce conflict of interest.
- F. If a member of the Research Committee is the applicant, or if that member works directly with an applicant, he/she shall recuse himself/herself from reviewing and voting on the application.
- G. Funds will be distributed upon approval of the application by the research committee.
- I. Within 30 days following travel or specialization exam, recipients must submit copies of all associated receipts to the NPTA Chapter Office using the form “Nebraska Foundation for Physical Therapy Rising Star Award Reimbursement Form.” A delay in submission or failure to submit this information may result in forfeiture of the award.
- J. The Nebraska Foundation for Physical Therapy reserves the right to request return of funds following examination of receipts and the reimbursement form if it is found that actual expenses were less than the original award amount, or if it is found that non-allowable expenses were submitted (for example, alcoholic beverages or expenses for individuals other than the applicant).

### **APPLICATION REVIEW - RISING STAR AWARD**

The following criteria will be reviewed to determine if the award will be funded

- Identification of an APTA-sponsored meeting or specialization exam to be funded
- Appropriate request of funds
- Applicant Essay (<500 words) demonstrating
  - How funds will support the applicant’s professional development
  - How the applicant will disseminate knowledge to employer/other physical therapy professionals upon completion of conference/specialization
- Letter of support from employer/mentor demonstrating
  - The applicant’s contributions in one of the following areas: education, research, clinical practice or professional service
  - How the proposed activity will advance the care of patients in the employers setting(s)