

VIRTUAL

DATE AND TIME

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

6:30pm – 7:30pm

- Session will be recorded for attendees' use.
- The recording will be available approximately 2 weeks following.

REGISTER BY

Monday, August 17, 2026

**Register
Online
[HERE](#)**

QUESTIONS?

Contact OTAC staff:

Email staff@otaonline.org

Call toll-free (888) 686-3225



OTAC Mission Statement

OTAC is the collective voice that serves, promotes, and supports the profession of occupational therapy and its practitioners.

Free. Exclusive for OTAC Members.

Enhancing Engagement Through Animal-Assisted Interventions: Applications for Occupational Therapy Education and Practice (1 PDU)

Presenters: Macy Burr, EdD, OTR/L, and Jennie DiGrado, PhD, OTR/L

The inclusion of therapy animals can promote engagement in both occupational therapy education and client service contexts. This presentation will describe the integration of animal-assisted education into activities focused on activity analysis and explore how these approaches translate across diverse occupational therapy practice settings. Resources for animal interventions will also be shared.



Macy Burr, EdD, OTR/L, has been an occupational practitioner for almost 10 years and has experience in early intervention, home health, pediatric clinic, and school-based settings. She has certifications in early intervention, animal-assisted interventions, and autism, and has been a core faculty member at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences since 2022. Burr is passionate about animal-assisted interventions and is on the board of directors for the Association of Animal-Assisted Intervention Professionals. She has experience in animal-assisted therapy and has incorporated her therapy dogs, Hops and Nikki, into occupational therapy education. Burr completed her Doctor of Education 2025, with her dissertation focused on competencies in animal-assisted occupational therapy. She also has a certificate in sensory integration through the Collaborative for Leadership in Ayres Sensory Integration.



Jennie DiGrado, PhD, OTR/L, completed a PhD in health services. She has been an occupational therapy practitioner for over 20 years and has taught at the University of St. Augustine for 14 years. DiGrado has worked in a variety of clinical settings, including inpatient rehabilitation, skilled nursing facilities, outpatient, and home health care. Her specialty is working with the older adult neurological population and promoting engagement in meaningful occupations. DiGrado is currently training her goldendoodle, Cali, to become a therapy dog. Cali recently passed the Canine Good Citizen test through the American Kennel Club.