

VIRTUAL

DATE AND TIME
Thu., April 16, 2026
6:30pm – 7:30pm

**REGISTER BY WED,
APRIL 15, 2026**

Register Online
[HERE](#)

QUESTIONS?
Contact OTAC staff:
staff@otaonline.org or
toll-free (888) 686-3225



FREE. EXCLUSIVELY FOR MEMBERS.

Doing Good: Civic Participation for Real People (1 PDU)

Presenters: Zima Creason, Bryant Edwards, OTD, MPH, MA, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA; Terri Chew Nishimura, MA

Come hear from real people about their journey from watching from the sidelines to being at the table – using their voices to make changes for good in our communities. Whether you are curious, skeptical, or not sure where to start, join us to learn about small, manageable ways to get started and make a difference.

Registration fees: Complimentary and exclusive for OTAC members only



Zima Creason is a mission-driven executive leader with over two decades of experience driving organizational transformation, building strong teams, and advancing equitable policy solutions. Throughout her career, Creason has been known for turning vision into action and cultivating coalitions that deliver impact. She currently serves as the executive director of the California EDGE Coalition, where she leads statewide efforts to address workforce shortages, expand access to quality jobs, and promote economic mobility for communities historically excluded from California's prosperity. She brings deep experience in mental health, workforce development, and education policy, having worked in the policy and advocacy space since 2001. In addition to her executive role, Creason is an elected member of the San Juan Unified School District Board of Education, where she champions equity, student mental health, and high-quality learning opportunities for all children.



Bryant Edwards, OTD, MPH, MA, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA, has been an occupational therapy practitioner for over 20 years, primarily in pediatrics and healthcare leadership. He has worked clinically in the hospital setting, private clinic setting, and school setting. Edwards now serves as the director of Rehabilitation, Clinical Nutrition, and Lactation Services at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. He first became involved in volunteer leadership as a committee chair with the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) over 12 years ago before being elected to serve on the Board of Directors as secretary, vice president, and president. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and will be starting his term as treasurer in July 2026. Edwards earned his Board Certification in Pediatrics from the AOTA in 2016, and in 2022, was awarded the Roster of Fellow Award by the AOTA for his leadership service to the profession.



Terri Chew Nishimura, MA, OTR (retired), is one of the founders of Pediatric Therapy Network (PTN), a premiere nonprofit therapy center which served almost 2,500 children annually, with a staff of nearly 200. Nishimura trained under Dr. A. Jean Ayres in 1983 and continued as a research assistant,

helping with piloting and normative data collection for the Sensory Integration and Praxis Tests. She was one of the directors of the Ayres Clinic when Dr. Ayres retired and was a clinical faculty member at the USC Chan Division from 1989 to 2008. PTN was named Nonprofit of the Year in 2017 by the California State Assembly, 66th District, and Nonprofit of the Year in 2016 by the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce. Some of Nishimura's volunteer leadership roles included having served as chair of the Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Childcare and Development for over 15 years, on the Harbor Regional Center's Board of Directors and several committees, and on the OTAC Fiscal Advisory Committee and Autism Task Force. She was appointed to the Board of Councilors of the USC Chan Division in 2022. Nishimura's honors include: the 2014 Entrepreneur Award from OTAC; 2014 Women of Distinction from the California State Assembly 66th District; 2013 Citizen of the Year from the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce; Los Angeles County Woman of the Year in 2011; 2008 Outstanding Individual Award, Asian Pacific American Community Awards for the California 53rd Assembly District. In 2025, Nishimura was honored with the OTAC Lifetime Achievement Award.

ABOUT SPECIAL TOPIC FORUMS

Why OTAC Special Topic Forums? To support OTAC Core Value 7 – Professional Development: To provide quality education and resources to advance the knowledge, skills, and continued competence of occupational therapy practitioners.

Professional Development Units (PDUs)

PDUs will be entered into your OTAC profile.

To earn PDUs, registrants must complete the post event survey that is emailed out within one week following the event.

Event Disclaimer

This event is sponsored by OTAC for the purpose of professional development. The material presented is not

intended to represent the only or the best methods appropriate for the occupational therapy and/or medical condition, or professional development issues being discussed, but rather is intended to present the opinions of the presenters, which may be helpful to other health care professionals at arriving at their own conclusions and consequent application. Attendees participating in this professional development education program do so with the full knowledge that they waive any claim they may have against OTAC and its representatives for reliance on any information presented during this educational event.

[Click here for OTAC's complete disclaimer/terms. You must agree to these disclaimers/terms. Please don't register if you do not.](#)

About OTAC. OTAC is a nonprofit, 501c6. This means that end-of-year net revenue is retained for operations and benefit of the members and is not distributed to private owners. It is governed by an elected, noncompensated Board of Directors and hires a professional association management team.

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

FIND OTHER SPECIAL TOPIC FORUMS, EDUCATION PASSPORT EVENTS, and SYMPOSIA [HERE](#) THROUGH OUR ONLINE EVENTS CALENDAR

Submit a proposal [HERE](#) for OTAC's 2026 Annual Conference & Innovation Expo and help us celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

Be A Conference PRESENTER

**Submit a proposal:
Session or poster presentation**

**Deadline to submit:
MAY 4, 2026**

**NOV.
5-8,
2026.**

**OTAC 2026 ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
& EXPO
PASADENA
NOVEMBER 5-8**