

Gator COTAD Chapter: Increasing Diversity and Inclusion in the Field of Occupational Therapy

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Panel Discussion

We were able to bring the experience of Black OTs to the forefront of our work by creating an event entitled “Addressing Racism and Prejudice through the Lens of Occupational Therapy.”

This panel discussion addressed topics around racism including their experiences, and how we can move forward as a field. This event was attended by over 100 OT clinicians, faculty, and students across the state.

Link to the recording:

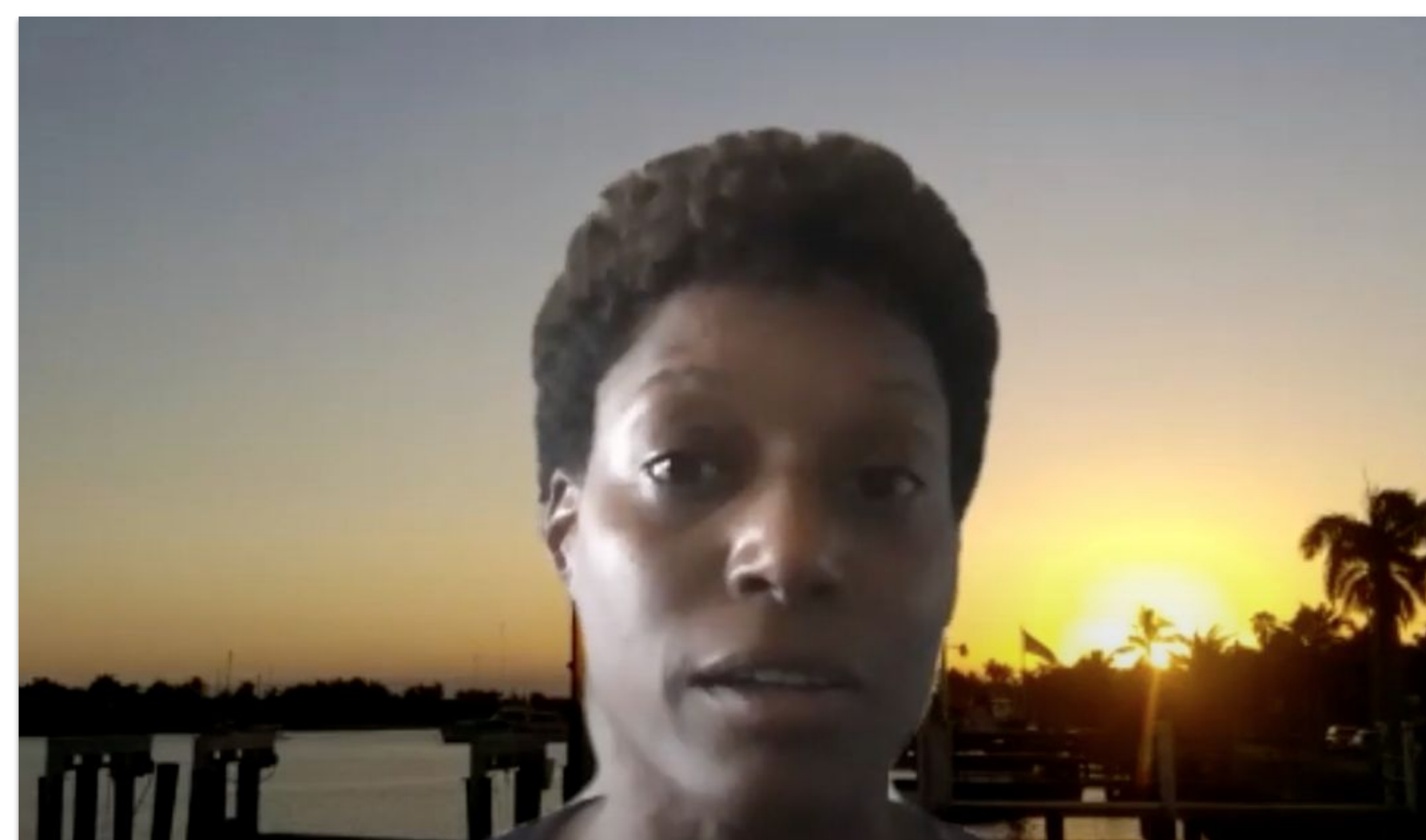


BIPOC Mentorship Program

We have worked to address the need for diversity among occupational therapy providers by developing and implementing a Black, Indigineous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Mentorship Program between OT clinicians and OT students within the community.



We currently have 5 mentors and 6 mentees! They will begin meeting virtually once a month for a year starting in March 2021. We hope to follow up with them at the halfway mark to document their experience having a BIPOC mentor.



Guest Speaker Events

To highlight the contributions of Black OTs during Black History Month, we invited Nancy Yamoah, a Black OT who uses her instagram blog to discuss OT topics and has written her own book. She gave us advice about navigating OT school and inspired us to amplify Black voices in OT and work with underrepresented populations.



We have held several language events to encourage our members to be more inclusive when working with diverse populations. This includes featuring members from our chapter, Angelica and Gloria, to teach us common occupational therapy terms in Spanish and Creole, and Mr. Hardy from Signing Gators to teach us terms in American Sign Language.

Partnered with Chapters Nationwide

We have reached out to COTAD Chapters across the country to participate in events that have highlighted the benefit of occupational therapy services to underserved populations such as those who are incarcerated, by speaking with people from that community. We have also attended events that teach us how we can incorporate culturally inclusive ADLs into our treatments, so that we can better serve our clients.

