

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21, 2008

CONTACT: Heather R. Huhman
Office: (301) 652-6611 x 2963
praota@aota.org

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY NAMED ONE OF NATION'S 150 BEST RECESSION-PROOF JOBS

Occupational Therapy Among the Best Paying, Fastest Growing Jobs

Bethesda, MD — With the current unemployment rate at 6.1 percent – an increase of 1.4 percentage points and 2.2 million unemployed persons over the past 12 months – people everywhere are fearful of how their careers will weather the current economic climate. However, launching a career as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant might be a good idea, according to Laurence Shatkin's, Ph.D., newly released "**150 Best Recession-Proof Jobs**" (JIST, 2008).

"The numbers don't lie. Demand for occupational therapy services is on the rise, and new practitioners are needed to fill the demand," said Penny Moyers Cleveland, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, president of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). "And, many occupational therapy programs meet the needs of people who have been out of school for a while or are changing careers."

| The 150 Best Recession-Proof Jobs Overall | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Rank | Job | Annual Earnings | Percent Growth | Annual Openings |
| 18 | Occupational therapist | \$60,470 | 23.1 percent | 8,338 |
| 72 | Occupational therapy assistant | \$42,060 | 25.4 percent | 2,634 |

| The 50 Best-Paying Recession-Proof Jobs | | |
|---|------------------------|-----------------|
| Rank | Job | Annual Earnings |
| 35 | Occupational therapist | \$60,470 |

| The 50 Fastest-Growing Recession-Proof Jobs | | |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Rank | Job | Percent Growth |
| 24 | Occupational therapy assistant | 25.4 percent |
| 41 | Occupational therapist | 23.1 percent |

| Best Recession-Proof Jobs with the Highest Percentage of Workers Age 55 and Over | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rank | Job | Percent Age 55 and Over |
| 74 | Occupational therapy assistant | 19 percent |

| Best Recession-Proof Jobs Employing the Highest Percentage of Women | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Rank | Job | Percent Women |
| 13 | Occupational therapist | 90.3 percent |
| 14 | Occupational therapy assistant | 89.4 percent |

U.S. News & World Report also cited occupational therapy as a top profession in 2008.

Founded in 1917, the **American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)** represents the interests and concerns of more than 36,000 occupational therapists, assistants and students nationwide. The Association educates the public and advances the profession of occupational therapy by providing resources, setting standards including accreditations and serving as an advocate to improve health care. Based in Bethesda, Md., AOTA's major programs and activities are directed toward promoting the professional development of its members and assuring consumer access to quality services so patients can maximize their individual potential. For more information, go to www.aota.org.