****

**HOWARD UNIVERSITY**

**DIVERSITY IN THE COLLEGE CLASSROOM**

**CAPSTONE PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

**03/20/24**

**TOPIC: Neurodiversity In Neurorehabilitation**

**Alicia Cato, OTD**

1. **Dscribe neurodiversity and its relevance to Occupational Therapy.**

OT practitioners can tailor their interventions to better meet the needs of individuals with different neurological profiles. Neuroplasticity, the brain's ability to rewire and adapt, is a fundamental concept in OT. By engaging in purposeful activities and interventions, OT practitioners can help clients develop and strengthen neural connections, leading to improved functional abilities. For example, through targeted interventions, OT can help individuals with autism develop social skills, enhance sensory processing, and improve their ability to engage in daily activities.

1. **The goals of the project and why this goal is important**

By understanding and embracing neurodiversity, OT graduates can provide more effective and inclusive interventions that support the unique needs and strengths of each individual.

1. **A description of the diversity-related issue/challenge being addressed**

Choosing a client-centered approach allows for the development of personalized treatment plans that optimize each client's potential for growth and independence.

1. **Describe your intended audience (and why you chose this audience).**

Occupational Therapy Graduate students engaged in clinical Level 2 fieldwork. To determine their understanding of using a multi-media approach in therapeutic intervention, taking neurodiversity

1. **Description of your approach, supported by any relevant literature.**

Graduate OT students should consider the example of the following case study below. The students would use this case or select another choice from the AOTA archives. Graduate students would develop a therapeutic intervention using multi-media strategies and enhancing neurodiversity :

Client: Mary Age: 45 years Diagnosis: Ischemic Stroke

 Mary experienced an ischemic stroke three months ago, resulting in weakness on her right side and difficulty with walking and self-care tasks. The stroke affected the left side of her brain, leading to right-sided hemiparesis. She has been undergoing rehabilitation to improve her motor skills and regain independence in daily activities.

Complete a case study using discussing the following:

A.  Treatment Approach promoting neurodiversity.

B. Occupational Therapy process from referral to discharge.

C. Initial evaluation report and 1-week treatment intervention plan.

D. Expected outcomes.

1. **A plan for how you have/will assess or evaluate the success of your project.**

Identifying the selection of the varied interventions and strategies used in

 developing a treatment plan for Mary. This will determine if they understand how to promote

 neurodiversity as they assist the patient in reaching their goals.

**References:**

Dietz, V. & Ward, N. (2020). Oxford Textbook of Neurorehabilitation (2nd Edition), Oxford University Press. ISBN-13: 97800198824954

Hammel, J., Lee, S. A., Bass-Haugen, J. D., & Lai, J. S. (2019). Examining social support and participation after spinal cord injury in the context of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 73*(4 Supplement 1), 7311515296p