

Faculty and staff accomplishments (Aug. 1-Feb. 28)

Accomplishment kudos

Roxana Aguirre, EdD, MEd, strategic initiatives analyst, Arizona & California president's office, ATSU, completed the test-out process for the Teaching & Learning Center's Course Design Institute.

Lisa Albright, enrollment representative, ATSU-CGHS, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 Course Design Institute.

Jeffrey Andrion, PhD, associate professor, physical therapy, ATSU-ASHS, received the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 first runner-up Innovation in Teaching for Learning Award for the project titled "Embracing Vulnerability: The Art of Empathy."

Jane Clark, MPH, instructor and director, dentistry in the community, clinical education, ATSU-MOSDOH, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 Course Design Institute.

Brian Degenhardt, DO, assistant vice chancellor for osteopathic research, professor, and endowed chair for the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, A.T. Still Research Institute, ATSU, received the 2025 Living Tribute Award from the Kirksville Osteopathic Alumni Association.

Amy DeLeon, general accountant I, finance, ATSU, received the Missouri campus Employee Excellence Award for the third quarter of 2025.

Darrell Dern, SLPD, assistant professor, speech-language pathology, ATSU-ASHS, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 Course Design Institute.

Lihua Dishman, DBA, MBA, FACHE, professor, health administration, ATSU-CGHS, was elected to another one-year term as chair of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters' Health and Human Services section.

Christopher Ferguson, analyst, administrative computing, information technology services development, ATSU, received the Missouri campus Employee Excellence Award for the fourth quarter of 2025.

Gustavo Fernandes, DDS, PhD, MSD, associate professor, assistant specialty care unit director, clinical education, ATSU-MOSDOH, completed the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 Introduction to Educational Technology for Educators course.

John Fick, EdD, MS, FACHE, professor, health administration, ATSU-CGHS, was elected to another one-year term as vice chair of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters' Health and Human Services section. Dr. Fick was recertified as a fellow of the American College

of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and was re-elected to serve a two-year term as a member at large on the Midwest Chapter of the ACHE board of directors. Additionally, he was appointed to serve on the Association of University Programs in Health Administration's (AUPHA) Gary L. Filerman Prize for Educational Leadership Selection Committee for 2025-26, as well as on an AUPHA certification review team.

Julie Frantsve-Hawley, PhD, CAE, assistant professor, health sciences, dental public health, ATSU-CGHS, served on the American Association of Dental Educators and Journalists' stakeholder panel, which released guidance on generative artificial intelligence use in dental publishing.

Alan Freeman, DMgt, MBA, FACHE, senior director, patient care centers, ATSU, completed the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 Introduction to Educational Technology for Educators course.

Rachel Geoghegan, DAT, MSHRD, assistant professor, athletic training, ATSU-ASHS, received the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 second runner-up Innovation in Teaching for Learning Award for the project titled "Empowering Learning: AI Tutors for Flexible and Engaging Online Learning."

Meryl "Abbey" Glenn, OTD, MS, OTR/L, CBIS, assistant professor, occupational therapy, ATSU-ASHS, completed the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 Introduction to Educational Technology for Educators course.

Jaana Gold, DDS, PhD, MPH, CPH, professor and chair, dental public health, ATSU-CGHS, was awarded a scholarship to attend the Families USA Health Action Conference 2026.

Rashida Grayson, department manager, physician assistant studies, ATSU-ASHS, received the Arizona campus Employee Excellence Award for the fourth quarter of 2025.

Jennifer Harrington, DMSc, PA-C, DFAAPA, professor and chair, physician assistant studies, ATSU-CHC, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 Course Design Institute.

Tiffany Hines, PhD, MEd, assistant professor, speech-language pathology, ATSU-ASHS, completed the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 Introduction to Educational Technology for Educators course.

Kellie C. Huxel Bliven, PhD, ATC, FNAP, professor, chair of interdisciplinary health sciences, and director of clinical anatomy, ATSU-ASHS, completed the Teaching & Learning Center's Level Up! certificate program, becoming an ATSU-certified health sciences educator.

Sunna Khokhar, clinical student liaison, physician assistant studies, ATSU-ASHS, received the Arizona and California campus Employee Excellence Award for the third quarter of 2025.

Richard LaBaere II, DO, MPH, FAODME, associate dean, graduate medical education, ATSU-KCOM, received the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners' (NBOME) Santucci Award, the organization's highest honor. The Santucci Award is presented to members of NBOME's board, staff, or committees with 10 or more years of service in recognition of outstanding contributions to the organization's mission.

Dean Maag, manager, academic technologies, ATSU, received the 2025 Distinguished Service Award from the Kirksville Osteopathic Alumni Association.

Melchiorra Mangiaracina, DO, assistant professor, osteopathic principles & practice, ATSU-SOMA, completed the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 Introduction to Educational Technology for Educators course.

Erin Maruska, DMD, MPH, assistant professor, and **Janet Woldt, PhD, MS**, associate dean for student success, associate professor, ATSU-ASDOH, received the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 Innovation in Teaching for Learning Award for their project titled "Innovative Approach to Professionalism and Ethics Education: AI Role-Playing."

Stephanie McGrew, DHSc, MHA, MPH, assistant director, diversity & inclusion, ATSU, was selected to be a Department of Defense STEM ambassador. She traveled to Washington, D.C., to collaborate with other ambassadors and obtain resources to further STEM curriculum and education. Additionally, she was chosen as the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) Field of STEM ambassador, which gives her the opportunity to speak at the NSTA national conference about ATSU's Dreamline Pathways™ program.

Zarin Mehta, PhD, CCC-A, FAAA, associate professor, audiology and speech-language pathology, ATSU-ASHS, was named a distinguished fellow of the American Academy of Audiology, one of the profession's highest honors.

Jessica Melech, program coordinator, ATSU-SOMA, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 Course Design Institute.

Adriana Mendonca de Silva, DMD, PhD, MPH, postdoctoral research fellow, A.T. Still Research Institute, ATSU, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 Course Design Institute.

Adepitan Owosho, BChD, DABOMP, FAAOMP, FAAOM, FAMedS, professor of oral and maxillofacial pathology and oral medicine, specialty care unit director for oral medicine, dental oncology, and urgent care, ATSU-MOSDOH, was inducted as a fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Nigeria. This past month, he also served as the distinguished guest speaker for the 27th annual Shepard Lectureship at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

Patrick Palmieri, DHSc, EdS, MBA, MSN, ACNP, RN, adjunct faculty, health sciences, ATSU-CGHS, was seated as a member of Florence Nightingale International Nursing Foundation's board of directors, which is affiliated with the International Council of Nurses.

Jae Hyun Park, DMD, PhD, MSD, MS, professor and chair, postgraduate orthodontics, ATSU-ASDOH, was honored with the 2025 Arthur A. Dugoni Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists. This award recognizes exceptional personal effort to advance the art and science of the orthodontic specialty and is given only under exceptional circumstances. Recipients must have at least 20 years' experience in the practice of orthodontics and must exemplify a commitment to the pursuit of excellence and adherence to the highest ethical standards.

Monica Queen, PT, DPT, assistant professor, physical therapy, ATSU-ASHS, completed the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 Introduction to Educational Technology for Educators course.

Bobbie Repp, RDH, adjunct faculty, dental hygiene, preclinical instruction, ATSU-ASDOH, graduated from the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 Course Design Institute.

Michael Ryan, PhD, MSK, CSCS, Pn2, adjunct faculty, kinesiology, ATSU-CGHS, earned his doctorate in psychology from Grand Canyon University's College of Doctoral Studies.

Patricia Sexton, DHEd, MS, FNAOME, associate dean of medical education, professor of family medicine, ATSU-KCOM, served as the Holt Distinguished Lecturer in Professionalism in Ethics as part of the Humanism in Medicine Symposium at University of the Incarnate Word. Dr. Sexton's talk was titled "The Healing Touch: Humanism in Medicine Today."

Kimberly Skinner, AuD, PhD, associate professor, audiology, ATSU-ASHS, completed the Teaching & Learning Center's Level Up! certificate program, becoming an ATSU-certified health sciences educator.

Louise Smith, MA, instructional designer, ATSU-CGHS, completed the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 Introduction to Educational Technology for Educators course.

Amy J. Spies, PhD, assistant professor, clinical anatomy, interdisciplinary health sciences, ATSU-ASHS, earned board certification as a diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology (ABFA), the field's highest recognized professional credential. By earning this credential, Dr. Spies joins fewer than 200 professionals who have achieved this distinction since the ABFA's founding in 1977.

Michele Tourne, PT, DPT, PCS, adjunct professor, physical therapy, ATSU-ASHS, completed the Teaching & Learning Center's 2025 Introduction to Educational Technology for Educators course.

Tamara Valovich McLeod, PhD, ATC, FNATA, FNAK, FNAP, professor and chair, athletic training, ATSU-ASHS, completed the Teaching & Learning Center's Level Up! certificate program, becoming an ATSU-certified health sciences educator.

Margaret Wilson, DO, dean and professor, family medicine, ATSU-KCOM, was named Osteopathic Family Physician of the Year by the Missouri Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (MSACOFP). As MSACOFP's most prestigious honor, this award recognizes an osteopathic family physician who has exemplified the principles of osteopathic family medicine and has achieved outstanding accomplishments and service for the betterment of the profession. Dr. Wilson was nominated for her Missouri roots and dedication to serving her patients and community, locally and beyond.