



March 17, 2016

RE: University of Montana Health & Medicine

Dear Frank Podobnik:

The University of Montana (UM) is undertaking, through the support of the Office of Public Instruction, a feasibility study to develop an occupational therapy program at UM. We're gathering responses via the [therapist survey](#) and [facility survey](#) by **April 15<sup>th</sup>**. The study is being conducted by the UM College of Health Professions & Biomedical Sciences, in conjunction with University of Montana Health & Medicine, and Dr. Dana Howell. Dr. Howell is the coordinator of the Occupational Therapy Doctoral program at Eastern Kentucky University, and has experience with occupational therapy program development and curricular design.

The UM College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences presently includes professional programs in physical therapy, social work, public health and pharmacy. Concurrently, University of Montana Health & Medicine encompasses such programs as speech-language pathology, making an occupational therapy program at this institution a natural fit. Before moving forward, UM believes it is fundamental to gather relevant information to best assess the status of occupational therapy as currently practiced in Montana, along with the potential to meet accreditation standards. This includes the state's ability to support clinical fieldwork training sites and mentorships. I am reaching out to invite you to participate in our assessment phase through surveys developed in conjunction with our feasibility study. I hope you will take a few moments to provide us with valuable information about the current status of occupational therapy in your facility.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in completing the [Therapist Survey](#) and [Facility Survey](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reed Humphrey'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dana M. Howell'.

Dana Howell, PhD, OTD, OTR/L  
Professor, OTD Program Coordinator  
Eastern Kentucky University

Reed Humphrey, PhD  
Dean, College of Health Professions &  
Biomedical Sciences  
Professor and Head, UMHM