

## **UPT PTA Program Granted 10 Year Re-Accreditation by CAPTE**

*TITUSVILLE, PA, Dec. 13* - The University of Pittsburgh at Titusville's Associate Degree Physical Therapist Assistant Program was recently granted 10 year re-accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

CAPTE is an accrediting agency that is nationally recognized by the US Department of Education (USDE) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). CAPTE grants specialized accreditation status to qualified entry-level education programs for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

Achievement of accreditation indicates to the general public and to the educational community that a physical therapist assistant program has clear and appropriate educational objectives and is working to achieve these objectives.

According to Dr. Richard Cribbs, Director of the PTA Program, "The CAPTE review process began well over a year ago. In order to achieve re-accreditation, the PTA faculty and staff submitted a one-hundred page self-study report and narrative report on the UPT PTA program. In addition, CAPTE reviewers visited the campus in May of 2011 to perform interviews with faculty, current students, former students, employers, and clinical instructors. The result from CAPTE was that the UPT PTA Program demonstrated substantial compliance with evaluative criteria and a full 10-year (the maximum) was granted."

The UPT physical therapist assistant program was implemented in the fall of 1997. The program emphasizes producing well-qualified professionals in the health and rehabilitative professions by providing a strong core in the sciences with excellent clinical training. The PTA program is available to both full-time and part-time students. Graduates are qualified to sit for the National Physical Therapy

Examination (NPTE). 100% of Program Graduates passing their licensure exam and seeking employment as physical therapist assistants have obtained positions in the field. Program Graduates are working in a large variety of practice settings and in various cities throughout the United States.

All sixteen graduates of the 2011 Physical Therapist Assistant Program recently completed and passed the NPTE (National Physical Therapy Examination). While UPT PTA graduates have done very well on the exam in the past, this is the first time in several years they have achieved 100%. The NPTE examination is an exam that every graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant education program must pass in order to become a licensed physical therapist or licensed/certified physical therapist assistant.

For more information on the UPT PTA program, call (814) 827-4441 or visit the website at [www.upt.pitt.edu](http://www.upt.pitt.edu).