



For Immediate Release
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Speech-Language Institute of Salus Awarded National Parkinson's Grant



Elkins Park, Pa. — The Speech-Language Institute (SLI) of Salus University has been awarded its third grant from the Parkinson Voice Project in recognition of their ongoing SPEAK OUT! & LOUD Crowd therapy programs.

Through the grant, SLI will continue this year to provide free group speech therapy to people with Parkinson's disease. The grant program, launched in 2018, also helps the clinical facility offer free training for SLI's Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP) and graduate students in the SLP program at Salus, as well as provide speech therapy supplies.

"SLI is very happy to, once again, be awarded this generous grant from the Parkinson Voice Project," said Eileen Hunsaker, MS, CCC-SLP, assistant professor and clinical educator within the SLP program at Salus. "Last year we transitioned all SPEAK OUT! & LOUD Crowd therapy

programs to the virtual format. Using online teletherapy has allowed us to continue to provide free speech therapy treatment for people with Parkinson disease despite the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant allows us to continue to provide these important therapies to our clients from the safety and convenience of their own homes.”

National grant recipients include hospitals, university speech-therapy clinics, private practices and nonprofit organizations. The SLI at Salus is committed to offering Parkinson Voice Projects speech therapy program in the Philadelphia area.

“Up to 90 percent of people with Parkinson’s are at high risk of losing their ability to speak, and swallowing complications account for 70 percent of the mortality rate in this patient population,” said Samantha Elandary, Parkinson Voice Project’s founder and CEO. “Our vision at Parkinson Voice Project is to make our highly effective speech therapy program accessible to people with Parkinson’s worldwide.”

To inquire about receiving an evaluation and learn about SPEAK OUT! or other SLP services offered at SLI, call 215.780.3150 or email SLInstitute@salus.edu.

The grant program honors Dr. Daniel R. Boone, a world-renowned SLP and voice expert, who recognized in the late 1950s that individuals with Parkinson's could improve their communication if they spoke with “intent.”

Parkinson Voice Project’s program is based on Dr. Boone’s teachings and combines individual therapy (SPEAK OUT!) with ongoing group therapy (The LOUD Crowd) to convert speech from an automatic function to an intentional act.

The University’s Master of Science degree in SLP emphasizes a background in the biomedical sciences, interprofessional education and clinical skills. Graduates receive the necessary education and training to become integral members of today’s healthcare and education teams.

For information about the University’s SLP program, visit www.salus.edu/slp. For information about the Parkinson Voice Project grant – and a complete list of recipients, visit www.ParkinsonVoiceProject.org.

About Salus University

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology. Salus operates four clinical facilities in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, speech-language pathology and occupational therapy services. The University has more than 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.