



For Immediate Release
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Speech-Language Institute Continues Parkinson's Speech Therapy

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

Through the grant, SLI will continue this summer to provide free group speech therapy – through telehealth while under stay-at-home orders due to the coronavirus pandemic – 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 and graduate students in the University's Department of Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) program, as well as provide speech therapy supplies.

"Salus is honored to be awarded the Parkinson Voice Project grant for the second year in a row," said Robert Serianni, MS, CCC-SLP, FNAP, chair and program director of the SLP program. "We hope to combine the generous gift and the clinic's technology to continue our work with individuals with Parkinson's disease in an online format."

National grant recipients include hospitals, university speech-therapy clinics, private practices and nonprofit Parkinson's organizations.

"Up to 90 percent of people with Parkinson's are at high risk of losing their ability to speak," said, Samantha Elandary, founder of the Parkinson Voice Project. "Awarding these grants has substantially increased access to quality speech treatment to those living with Parkinson's."

To inquire about receiving a virtual 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 highly effective speech therapy 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 sound 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, and future leaders in their profession.

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, Public Health, 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, and speech-language pathology services. The University has more than 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.