

## University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center - Occupational Therapy Department **Occupation-Centered Group Practice**

TigerLIFE and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Occupational Therapy Department (UTHSC-OT) created a dynamic partnership to enhance both the TigerLIFE students' and Occupational Therapy (OT) students' experiences.

Over the course of a semester, 30 UTHSC-OT students gained group experience providing services to 45 TigerLIFE students enrolled in our Senior Workforce Training class. The OT students were gaining skills delivering group activities, as part of their training program.

The students assisted in instructing TigerLIFE students in the soft skills required to obtain and retain employment. Pairs of OT students met with small groups of TigerLIFE students. While TigerLIFE directed the topics for instruction, each pair created the lessons, which were approved by their instructor, Kendal Booker. These lessons were dynamic, interactive, and effective in engaging our students' interest and retention of new skills and included:

### Job Interview Skills

- Conversational skills during an interview and while on the job
- Formal introductions and engaging in an initial conversation.
- Conversational and social etiquette while dining with coworkers/interview.
- Personal presentation (attire, grooming, manners)

### Job Search Skills

- Assessing your strengths and weaknesses
- Aligning current job skills with job opportunities
- Using ONET to explore potential job opportunities.

### Computer Skills

- Logging in to the UofM student account, completing internship reports, and mailing completed reports to the internship coordinator

This collaboration appears to be mutually beneficial to both the TigerLIFE and the OT students. TigerLIFE instructors were impressed by the innovative approach taken by the OT students and their demonstrated interest in our students' success.