



February 6, 2023

Utica University Board of Trustees:

ATRA is the largest professional association representing over 18,000 recreational therapy practitioners and we are writing on behalf of the students at faculty at Utica University to support the efforts to maintain the Bachelor's of Science degree in Therapeutic Recreation. Recreational therapists are nationally certified, and in some states, state-licensed to provide activity-based treatment services for individuals with a range of disabling conditions across the lifespan.

Recreational therapy, also known as therapeutic recreation, is active treatment, medically necessary, and prescribed by a physician as part of a patient's plan of care. It is a skilled therapy that is part of the medical rehabilitation continuum and has proven to help individuals with disabilities and chronic conditions achieve positive outcomes and, ultimately, better health, functional status, and higher levels of independent living. Recreational therapy is a systematic process that utilizes recreation and other activity-based interventions to address the assessed needs of individuals with illnesses and/or disabling conditions, as a means to improve psychological and physical health, recovery and well-being.

We strongly support the faculty and students at Utica University in their efforts to continue this vital educational program. In the state of New York there are over 750 Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists (CTRS) and it is vital that there are programs in the state to educate students to fill the open positions in New York and across the country. In the strongest of terms, we encourage the administration at Utica University to reconsider sunsetting the Therapeutic Recreation program; it is needed to continue educating the next generation of recreational therapists. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at brent@atra-online.com or 601.467.2502.

Standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before,

Brent Wolfe, PhD, LRT, CTRS FDRT
Executive Director, American Therapeutic Recreation Association

25 Century Blvd. Suite 505 | Nashville, TN 37214 | Tel. 703.234.4140 | info@atra-online.com



ATRA Board of Directors: Cliff Burnham, President; Jennifer Hinton, President Elect; Tracey Crawford, Immediate Past-President; Laura Kelly, Treasurer; Deborah Tysor, Secretary; Members at Large: Courtney Fecske, Audra Gibson, Sara Miller, Eric Oba, Veronica Spinden, LeAnn Wheeler