SOTA and the 2020 CEED Award

The Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) has shown a consistent effort to bridge the gap between underrepresented populations and the occupational therapy students and staff of San Jose State University. The club has shown a track record of community involvement and intentional integration of diverse populations within club workshops, activities, and volunteer events.

The workshops included “Working with clients who identify as LGBTQIA+” and “TBI Survivor – Informational Session”. Beyond workshops on campus, SOTA has also made a concerted effort to help diverse populations in the community as well. The first event involved working with the Asian Women’s Home of AACI to make origami cranes that contained resources for domestic violence and sex trafficking which were distributed to vulnerable populations. Furthermore, SOTA provided volunteers for Vista Tec to accompany individuals who are visually impaired to support them in the event put on by the company. Moreover, SOTA also had thirteen volunteers support a “Paddle for Good” event, where volunteers assisted students with disabilities in the activity of paddle boarding, fostering more social participation and connection among students with disabilities. Lastly, SOTA was able to sort over 25,000 lbs. of food for Meals on Wheels – a program that combats hunger and isolation of older adults.

SOTA is a student organization that is motivated and continually shows a desire to ensure diverse populations receive the club’s volunteer efforts. The club also makes it a priority to provide members and staff the opportunity to gain understanding and feel empowered to advocate for future clients of diverse populations.