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For Immediate Release

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## **Academy Board Approves Funding to Support NCOPE Education Initiatives**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists (the Academy) Board of Directors has approved \$14,000 in funding to support National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) initiatives.

This funding supports activities directly related to O&P education programs that are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), including master's level O&P practitioner education programs and education programs for O&P assistants, pedorthists, and O&P technicians. It will also be used to foster advocacy by sponsoring an O&P master's degree student's attendance at the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA) Policy Forum in 2018.

"It is critical to engage students in political activism early on in their careers," said NCOPE Executive Director Robin Seabrook. "With support from organizations like the Academy, we can help to ensure that patients will have vocal activists speaking to their interests in the future."

"Students are the future of our profession," said Alicia Davis, MPA, CPO, FAAOP(D), president of the Academy Board of Directors. "The Academy Board is pleased to approve funding that will support education initiatives and help cultivate the next generation of O&P practitioners."

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### **About the Academy**

Founded in 1970, the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists is the leading professional organization representing certified orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) practitioners, state-licensed practitioners, assistants, technicians, fitters, and others affiliated with the O&P profession. It is dedicated to helping its members provide the highest level of professionalism and service to their patients. To learn more about the Academy, visit [www.oandp.org](http://www.oandp.org).

### **About NCOPE**

The National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) serves in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) as the accreditation body for the orthotics, prosthetics and pedorthic professions. As such, its primary mission and obligation is to develop, implement, and assure compliance with standards for orthotic and prosthetic education through accreditation and approval processes that promote exemplary patient care. To learn more about NCOPE, visit [www.ncope.org](http://www.ncope.org).

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