

**Erin Wentz, PT, PhD, PCS**  
**Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy**  
**Department of Physical Therapy Education**  
**College of Health Professions**

**Script read by Dr. Katherine Beissner, Dean of the College of Health Professions,  
presenting the 2020 Gold Standard Award to Dr. Erin Wentz:**

“It is my honor to share a few excerpts from Dr. Wentz’s letter of nomination for the Gold Standard Award:

Dr. Wentz’s dedication, commitment to students, and passion is amazing! Her research expertise is in pediatrics, and she is currently undertaking a multi-site clinical trial examining the effect of different dosages of tummy time on infant and childhood development. Dr. Wentz has fully embraced the mission of the institution through her research, teaching, service, and clinical practice.

Although there are many examples of Dr. Wentz’s commitment to students and the institution, one in particular stands out. In December of 2017, she led a small group of physical therapy students on a service-learning trip to Nicaragua. In 2018, it was no longer safe for students to go to Nicaragua, so Dr. Wenz developed a second overseas service-learning opportunity for our Doctor of Physical Therapy students in partnership with Center for InterAmerican Studies. Since then Dr. Wentz has brought groups of students to Ecuador each year. While in Ecuador, Dr. Wenz and the students worked with Ecuadorian physical therapists and physical therapy students and with patients/clients at several locations. Dr. Wentz is continuing to develop these partnerships with healthcare providers and educators in Ecuador so that this is a continuing educational opportunity for our students.

Given her passion and commitment to our students’ learning I can think of no other faculty who is more deserving of this award than Dr. Wentz.”

**Nominated by George D. Folk, PT, PhD, Professor & Chair, Department of Physical  
Therapy Education, College of Health Professions.**