

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDENTS PROVIDE BALANCE ASSESSMENTS TO UNDERSERVED OLDER ADULTS

Omaha, Nebraska (June 14, 2006) --- On June 14, 2006, 45 Creighton University Doctor of Physical Therapy Students (DPT) screened 20 residents of Immanuel Courtyard – an independent living community for older adults – to evaluate their risk for falls. The Balance Clinic, an annual community-based experiential learning opportunity in the Motor Control and Motor Learning course, allow second year students to apply their skills in a real-life situation. The students are asked to evaluate the ability of the participants to perform functional activities that could challenge balance. If a participant is identified to be at risk for falls, he/she is provided with education on safety and fall prevention and is referred for further evaluation and intervention. Caroline Goulet, PT, PhD, physical therapy faculty member, and Danny Young, PT, DPT, guided and provided assistance to the students.

Immanuel Courtyard provides affordable housing to independent older adults who meet specific financial criteria. The Courtyard is one of six retirement communities with a focus on wellness in Omaha and Lincoln owned by Immanuel Health Systems, and the only facility that provides an affordable housing option. AgeWell provides a variety of services to individuals 55 and older living both within the retirement communities and in their own homes including fitness programs, social events, and computer skills training. For more on Immanuel Health Systems, visit <http://www.ihsi.org/>.

Community engagement activities across the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions are coordinated through the Office of Interprofessional Scholarship, Service and Education (OISSE). For more on these activities, visit <http://oisse.creighton.edu>.



Above, left: DPT students Claire Lakatos & Michelle McLaughlin talk with an Immanuel Courtyard resident about her balance.

Above right: DPT students Casey Ketelson and Deanna Polle provide assistance to an Immanuel Courtyard resident during a balance assessment.