Perceptions of authentic leadership development by occupational therapy students participating in a pilot national leadership camp in South Africa

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Introduction: Twenty-three years into democracy, deepening concern exists in the OT profession of South Africa that little progress has been made related to diversity OT leadership within the profession.

Method: This study is discovery-oriented in the area of authentic leadership development amongst primarily Black OT students attending a pilot OTASA National Student Leadership Camp and seeks to ascertain their perceptions on leadership. A qualitative descriptive study utilizing in-depth interviews with 12 OT students from six university OT programs in South Africa was deployed. Thematic content analysis was used.


Conclusions: Recommendations for future practice include the promotion of story-telling as a means for sense-making about leadership journeying and experiences, and focused investment in camping for student leadership development.