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**Parkinson Voice Project Awards
2019 SPEAK OUT!® & LOUD Crowd® Grant to
Salus University Department of
Speech-Language Pathology**

*Nonprofit names 149 national and international grant recipients,
increasing impact by 62% from inaugural year*

Elkins Park, PA — Parkinson Voice Project, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has named Salus University Department of Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) and the Speech-Language Institute (SLI) as a recipient of its **2019 SPEAK OUT!® & LOUD Crowd® Grant Program**. Of the 149 grant recipients, five are international clinics. The total number of recipients marks a 62% increase from 2018 when this grant program launched. A full listing of 2019 grant recipients can be found [here](#).

Grant recipients include hospitals, university speech therapy clinics, private practices, and nonprofit Parkinson's organizations. Each clinic will receive free training for their speech-language pathologists and graduate students, as well as speech therapy supplies. Some grant recipients will also receive funding to offset the cost of providing group speech therapy. Salus University Speech-Language Institute is committed to offering Parkinson Voice Project's speech therapy program in the Elkins Park area

"Up to 90% of people with Parkinson's are at high risk of losing their ability to speak, and aspiration pneumonia caused by swallowing issues accounts for 70% of the mortality rate in this patient population. Awarding these grants has substantially increased access to quality speech treatment to those living with Parkinson's," said Parkinson Voice Project's Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Samantha Elandary.

Robert Serianni, MS, CCC-SLP, FNAP, Interim Chair and Program Director is proud to offer these services without cost, starting this Fall, for individuals with Parkinson Disease looking to improve their voice, swallowing and cognition. "Salus will be the first institution in the Philadelphia area to offer the LOUD Crowd program – we are excited for individuals to experience this unique treatment method."

This grant program honors Daniel R. Boone, PhD, a world-renowned speech-language

pathologist and voice expert who recognized in the late 1950s that individuals with Parkinson's could improve their communication if they spoke with "intent." Parkinson Voice Project's highly effective speech therapy program is based on Boone's teachings and combines individual therapy (SPEAK OUT!®) with ongoing group therapy (The LOUD Crowd®) to convert speech from an automatic function to an intentional act.

Clients with the diagnosis of Parkinsonism who would like to participate in the program at SLI should contact 215.780.3150. They will be scheduled to participate in an individual evaluation to determine if they are a candidate for the program.

ABOUT PARKINSON VOICE PROJECT:

Parkinson Voice Project is the only 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the world solely dedicated to helping individuals with Parkinson's improve their speech and swallowing. The organization runs a speech therapy clinic in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and also hosts the *World's Largest Parkinson's Chorus* consisting of nearly 100 individuals with Parkinson's whose voices have been restored through their program.

Parkinson Voice Project developed the SPEAK OUT!® & LOUD Crowd® program. The vision of the organization is to replicate its two-part therapy approach across the globe to help individuals with Parkinson's preserve their speech and swallowing abilities. More than 1600 speech-language pathologists have been trained to date, including clinicians in Australia, Canada, Finland, Greece, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Israel, and New Zealand.

<https://www.ParkinsonVoiceProject.org>

About Salus

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Public Health, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology. Salus operates four clinical facilities in the Philadelphia area that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, and speech-language pathology services. The University has around 1,200 students, including PhD candidates, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.

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