Strategic Plan for the Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Program

The mission of the graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology is to further the understanding of human communication and its disorders and to contribute to the advancement of the field of Speech-Language Pathology through clinical practice, research and professional development. The program strives to prepare Speech-Language Pathologists who provide quality services across the lifespan, engage in intellectual discovery, and give back to the profession and their communities.

This mission will be achieved by:

**Goal 1: Providing innovative, quality speech-language pathology services to the region**

Objective: Continue enhancement and improvement of clinical programs available for student and faculty participation
- Benchmark: Explore expanding tele-practice at the SLHC
- Benchmark: Expander voice modification services
- Benchmark: Explore new external contracts
- Benchmark: Submit 1 grant to support clinic programs
- Benchmark: Broaden the populations seen for telepractice

Objective: Continue interdisciplinary case-based learning

Fits with AHCD Goal 2: Increase alumni employment opportunities
Fits with AHCD Goal 4: Increase revenue streams
Fits with College Goal 1: Diversify revenue sources to enhance revenue and increase revenue stability
Fits with College Goal 3: Assure CHHS program excellence and accreditation
Fits with Presidential Goal: Enrollment
Fits with Presidential Goal: Research, Artistry, Innovation and Regional Engagement
Fits with Presidential Goal: Fiscal Responsibility
Fits with Presidential Goal: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**Goal 2: Creating an environment that fosters scholarly activities and critical thinking**

Objective: Highlight faculty research activity
- Benchmark: Explore creating websites for all program labs
- Benchmark: Discuss one scholarly activity at each faculty meeting
- Benchmark: Faculty research will be presented in a public forum

Objective: Increase student participation in research opportunities
- Benchmark: Create engagement activities for Freshman admit students
- Benchmark: Explore creating websites for all program labs
- Benchmark: Students will present at professional conferences
Objective: Collaborate with external constituents regarding research
Benchmark: Maintain external research collaborations

Objective: Increase research grant applications.
Benchmark: Submit one external research grant.
Benchmark: Submit one internal research grant

Objective: Increase manuscript submissions
Benchmark: Explore wider range of journals for submission of smaller projects
Benchmark: 2 conference presentations will be reworked for journal submissions

Fits with AHCD Goal 1: Develop ethical student leadership/advocacy
Fits with AHCD Goal 3: Create an environment that supports faculty research
Fits with AHCD Goal 4: Increase revenue streams
Fits with College Goal 2: Increase CHHS extramural funding and research productivity
Fits with College Goal 3: Assure CHHS program excellence and accreditation
Fits with Presidential Goal: Enrollment
Fits with Presidential Goal: Research, Artistry, Innovation and Regional Engagement
Fits with Presidential Goal: Fiscal Responsibility

Goal 3: Facilitating involvement in university, professional, alumni and community organizations

Objective: Highlight faculty involvement and participation in professional and community organizations
Benchmark: Discuss one outreach activity at each faculty meeting
Benchmark: 1 additional faculty member will become involved with a state professional organization

Objective: Increase student participation in professional organizations
Benchmark: Notify students of at least 3 regional conference opportunities
Benchmark: Explore student funding for students to attend conferences:
Benchmark: 5 students will attend a professional conference.
Benchmark: Invite at least 2 alumni to speak about professional involvement
Benchmark: Notify students of professional practice alerts and discuss role of professional organizations
Benchmark: Organize one faculty presentation about their involvement in professional organizations

Objective: Increase participation in international collaborations
Benchmark: Develop one international collaboration experience

Objective: Develop NIU as a regional choice for professional development
Benchmark: Offer two continuing education experiences that have participant fees
Benchmark: Renew credentials as an ASHA CEU provider
Objective: Continue to promote an atmosphere of equity in student learning and leadership
   Benchmark: Use the COMD majors blackboard community to increase communication amongst faculty and students

Objective: Continue to provide students with opportunities prior to graduation that prepare them for future employment
   Benchmark: Provide lectures from career services on networking, interviewing and resume writing
   Benchmark: Invite at least two alumni to speak in classes about career opportunities
   Benchmark: All students will complete at least three different external practica

Objective: Increase relations with alumni and stakeholders
   Benchmark: Host an alumni event organized around the ISHA college bowl
   Benchmark: Invite external supervisors to graduation reception
   Benchmark: Invite alumni and external supervisors to CEU events
   Benchmark: Complete external site visits
   Benchmark: Create an outstanding alumni award

Fits with AHCD Goal 1: Develop ethical student leadership/advocacy
Fits with AHCD Goal 2: Increase alumni employment opportunities
Fits with AHCD Goal 4: Increase revenue streams
Fits with College Goal 1: Diversify revenue sources to enhance revenue and increase revenue stability
Fits with College Goal 3: Assure CHHS program excellence and accreditation
Fits with Presidential Goal: Enrollment
Fits with Presidential Goal: Research, Artistry, Innovation and Regional Engagement
Fits with Presidential Goal: Fiscal Sustainability

Goal 4: Assure program accreditation and compliance with standards

Objective: Ensure that external and internal faculty complete CEUs in supervision and create a tracking system
Objective: Implement new data tracking system implemented by the Office of Educator Licensure and Preparation
Objective: Hire one new faculty member to fill vacancies.
Objective: Secure adjunct faculty to teach in specialty areas not covered by regular faculty
Objective: Ensure that meet 2020 CFCC standards and understand the online application process
Objective: Participate in process to revise the ILTS: 154 content test
Objective: Participate in writing the rules for new PEL requirements

Fits with College Goal 3: Assure CHHS program excellence and accreditation
Fits with Presidential Goal: Enrollment