



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders

College of Health and Human Sciences

Strategic Plan (2016-2021) School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders January 2018 Update

The mission of the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders, with its programs in audiology, physical therapy, rehabilitation counseling, and speech-language pathology is to contribute to the health and well-being of society. This mission is accomplished through:

- education of future health professionals and the provision of continuing professional development opportunities,
- research that enhances knowledge and clinical skills that serve as the foundation for quality health care and education, and
- service to health professionals, organizations, and communities concerned with the promotion of optimal health and the prevention, early detection, treatment, and rehabilitation of conditions that negatively affect health or quality of life.

Goal 1: Develop ethical student leadership/advocacy

Objective 1: Increase students' ethical awareness and decision making skills in leadership roles and situations

Action: Collaborate with law school

Target: Have one joint lecture with law students

- *March 9, 2017: Law professor Daniel McConkie gave a presentation for the Autism Caregiver Group*
- *October 18, 2017: Law alum Brian Brim spoke regarding being an expert witness at Student led Lunch 'n Learn after hours*

Action: Provide interdisciplinary case discussions for students (with ethical dilemma)

Target: Offer one case discussion

- *Interdisciplinary Case Study Event – February 3, 2017*

Action: Mentor student involvement and participation in professional conferences, presenting research, etc.

Target: 5 students presenting research at professional conferences

- *Student Led Lunch n' Learn After Hours faculty research projects – June 28, 2017*
- *Student Led Lunch n' Learn After Hours faculty and student research projects – November 8, 2017*

Audiology

National Conference

- *Romero, D., Wilson, M., Kitner, B., & Smith, K. Gravitational effects on stimulus and recording parameters on ocular vestibular evoked myogenic potential amplitude. American Balance Society Annual Meeting, March 2017.*
- *Taddei, S., Chung, K., & Wilson, M. Influence of hearing aid compression ratio on localization in the horizontal plane. American Auditory Society Annual Meeting, March 2017.*

- *Wilson, M., & Mangini, M. The effects of attention on distortion product otoacoustic emissions suppression in athletes with a history of concussion. American Auditory Society Annual Meeting, March 2017.*

State/Regional Conference

- *Pinkl, J., Wilson, M., Billingsly, D., & Munguia, R. Detailed analysis of high frequency auditory brainstem response in tinnitus patients. Illinois Academy of Audiology State Convention, January 2017.*

Physical Therapy

National Conference

- *Glick, J., Burch, M., Tibbs, J., & Odeh, C. Decreasing musculoskeletal complications during pregnancy: Preventative exercise prior to conception (A systematic literature review). APTA Combined Sections Meeting, February 2017.*
- *Odeh, C., Theissing, N., & Ciezobka, D. Clinical decision making of 3rd year DPT students: Intervention or referral. APTA Combined Sections Meeting, February 2017.*

Rehabilitation Counseling

National Conference

- *Sprong, M. E., Thomas, S., Moroni, K., & Currier, K. The influence of sexism on the recommendations of vocational rehabilitation services. National Council on Rehabilitation Education Conference, April 2017.*

Speech Language Pathology

National Conference

- *Kim, I. & Millin, N. The Effect of Cognitive Linguistic Loading to Walking for People with Parkinson Disease: fNIR Study. American Speech, Language, Hearing Association Annual Conference, November, 2017*
- *Knetsch, E. & Olson, J. , The Effects of Positioning & Maternal Touch on Infants' Shared Book Reading. American Speech, Language, Hearing Association Annual Conference, November, 2017*
- *Lund-Hrdi, C. & Kasambira Fannin, D. Cue-Based feeding in preterm infants: a nursing perspective. American Speech, Language, Hearing Association Annual Conference, November, 2017.*

State/Regional Conference

- *Haduch, M. M., & Mayer, J. F. Effects of an art program on language expression in dementia. ISHA Annual Convention, February 2017.*
- *Laratta, B. & Tattersall, P. Phonological awareness and vocabulary knowledge with word decoding in language learning disabilities (LLD). ISHA Annual Convention, February 2017*
- *Knetsch, E. & Olson, J. Effects of maternal positioning and touch on infants' shared reading. ISHA Annual Convention, February 2017*
- *Miller, L. & Olson, J. Mother-infant print awareness checklist. ISHA Annual Convention, February 2017*

Action: Highlight faculty certification/licensure credentials as a model for students

Target: 100% of faculty have certification/licensure listed on website

- *27/32 (84%) people have credentials listed – December 2017*

Objective 2: Increase advocacy (professional, patient, family) opportunities for students

Action: Support student group involvement in advocacy activities

Target: Event that explains advocacy and how to do it

Each student group/program will plan advocacy event

Speech-Language Pathology

- *COMDSA booth at STEMfest: October 21, 2017*

Audiology

Student Academy of Audiology (SAA)

- *Volunteered at ILAA Convention*

- *celebrated World Hearing Day with informational booth on hearing conservation at NIU Student Center, March 2017*
- *IL Special Olympics Healthy Hearing Volunteers, June 2017*
- *DeKalb Senior Health Fair booth, July 2017*
- *Raised \$2961.66 for Hear the Cheers, September 2017*
- *Had Booth at STEMfest: October 21, 2017*
- *Participated in Advocacy Day - wrote 40 letters, 12 emails, and made 20 phone calls regarding audiology legislation, November 2017*

Physical Therapy

- *AHPT 700 students:*
 - *wrote advocacy letters to legislatures*
 - *developed a presentation for a special education class*
- *AHPT 602 students:*
 - *delivered presentations on safe work habits, posture and breathing techniques, and injury prevention in the community*
- *Students hosted annual 5K to raise money for a local charity or healthcare center to benefit patients*

Rehabilitation Counseling

- *Students in AHRS 200 conducted an accessibility audit on an NIU campus building and wrote a mock letter to an administrator highlighting their findings*

Action: Support student participation in state and national organizations

Target: 25% of students enrolled in accredited programs

Audiology

- *American Academy of Audiology 30/33 students (91%)*

Physical Therapy

- *IPTA/APTA members 34/108 students (31%)*

Rehabilitation Counseling

- *IL International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (IARP) 13/23 students (57%)*
 - *Hantac C. was the student representative for the Illinois Chapter of Rehabilitation Professionals (State Organization) and Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment Association (National organization).*

Speech-Language Pathology

- *NSSLHA 13/44 (30%)*

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

Fits with University Bold Futures Pillar 4: Ethically Inspired Leadership

Goal 2: Increase alumni engagement-opportunities

Objective 1: Create mentoring program between successful alumni and students

Action: Collect contact information of all graduating students.

Target: 50% of all undergraduate students and 90% of all graduate students

Action: Increase communication and engagement with alumni

Target: Each program will develop a program specific alumni engagement strategy

Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) has Linked-In page and hosted alumni get-together at Combined Sections Meeting in February 2017

Speech-Language Pathology (M.A.) has Alumni Facebook Page providing students frequent updates

Action: Offer mentoring program to alumni and current students

Target: 50 students will be paired with another student or an alumni each year

- *April 2017 - 15 alumni paired with 17 undergraduate/graduate students*
- *April 2017 - 8 graduate students paired with 10 undergraduate students*

Objective 2: Provide students opportunities prior to graduation that prepare them for future employment

Action: Create listing of alumni's contact information and locations so current students can contact them regarding observation opportunities.

Target: Collect 10 sites for each major

- *Alumni listing includes NPI numbers with employer information*

Action: Create opportunities for internships and/or involvement for undergraduate students

Target: Place 30 undergraduates in unaccredited programs in an internship

- *Spring 2017: Offered AHCD 480 = 13 students*
- *Summer 2017: Offered AHCD 480 = 7 students*
- *Fall 2017: Offered AHCD 480 = 10 students*
- *Fall 2017: Offered AHRS 497a = 5 students*

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

Fits with University Bold Futures Pillar 1: Student Career Success

Goal 3: Create an environment that supports faculty research

Objective 1: Highlight faculty research activity

Action: Faculty will write summary of each publication and send to Lori Botterman for posting on AHCD News website

Target: 10 faculty featured

- *Allison Gladfelter <http://news.chhs.niu.edu/index.php/2017/09/26/slp-professor-publishes-autism-research/>*

Action: Increase collaborative research

Target: 5 active collaborative research projects

AHCD Interdisciplinary offerings (clinical & research)

- *Oral and physical motor coordination in children with autism – Allison, Christina*
 - *SLP, PT*
- *Parents of children with Autism Support Group – Danai, Allison, Christina*
 - *PT, SLP*
- *Concussion Management - Matt*
 - *Athletics, AUD, SLP, PT, Health Services*
- *Cochlear Implant Activation Site– Mariah*

- *AUD, SLP, Oto-neurologist, cochlear implant manufacturers*
- *Closed captioning & noise (adding background noise to the classroom) – Matt, Bryan*
 - *AUD, RC*
- *Hearing Conservation*
 - *AUD, School of Music - Chas*
- *Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation (CAOHC) training – Danica, Diane*
 - *AUD, Engineering Technology, area Occupational Hearing Conservationists, engineer, ENT*
- *CISLL- Center of Interdisciplinary Study of Language & Literacy – Allison*
 - *SLP, Literacy*
- *Sound level meters (measure ear canal & middle ear responses) – King*
 - *AUD, Engineering*

Objective 2: Collaborate with external constituents regarding research

Action: Create database of alumni current research and research interests

Target: Each program solicits research interests from one cohort of students

Action: Contact external sources (clinical/research facilities) regarding potential research projects.

Target: Each program contacts one external source regarding potential collaborations

Objective 3: Increase student awareness of research opportunities

Action: Class announcements/website postings regarding opportunities for students to be research participants

Target: Forward opportunities to office support requesting they be disseminated to AHCD

Fits with College Goal 2: Increase CHHS extramural funding and research productivity

Fits with University Bold Futures Pillar 3: NIU Financial and Program Viability

Goal 4: Increase revenue streams

Objective 1: Continue enhancement and improvement of Physical Therapy and Speech-Language-Hearing Clinics' business practices

Action: Discuss contract opportunities

Target: Gain one new contract

- *Secured St. Mary's DeKalb Rochelle Community Hospital contracts (SLP)*

Objective 2: Expand Clinical Service Provision as staffing allows

Action: Resume hearing screenings/services for community

Target: Offer community event

Action: Participate in Health Fairs

Target: Participate in two events

Audiology, Speech-Language Pathology

- *DeKalb Wellness Fair—COMDSA hosted an informational booth, 2017*

Audiology, Physical Therapy

- *Employee Wellness Fair, 2017*

Objective 3: Integrate clinical services with specializations of our academic programs

Action: Advertise specialized services that have capacity

Target: Advertise one specialized service

Action: Explore group experiences

Target: Offer one group clinical program

Action: Explore services for NIU students who are veterans

Target: Contact Military and Post-Traditional Student Services office

Objective 4: Investigate grant opportunities that provide funding for clinic services or buyout faculty courses.

Target: Submit 2 grants

- *Aphasia Programs – Palmer*
- *Sentence Recognition Performance using Auditory and Visual Modality in Background Noise and in Quiet – Billingsly*
- *Rural Augmentative and Alternative Communication Education to Core Consulting – O'Connor*
- *A New Protocol for Effective Identification of Hearing Loss among the Elderly – Chung*
- *Assistive Technology for Working-Age Adults with Disabilities – Dallas*
- *Transdisciplinary Early Intervention Services for Children with Special Needs: an Innovative Clinical Training Model – Fannin*
- *Evaluation of Sit-Stand Cycle on Neuromuscular Fatigue and Cognitive Productivity: Fixed-interval vs. variable sit-stand cycles regulated by real-time feedback from a wearable sensor – Kim*
- *The Brain Activity, Motor Function, and Cognitive Performance of Patients with Parkinson Disease While Using a Computer Touchscreen – Kim*
- *Music and Memory: Maximizing Quality for those with Dementia – Mayer*
- *Relationship Between Cognitive Changes and Speech-in-Noise Deficits in Athletes with a History of Concussion Wilson & Kitner*

Objective 5: Increase donations

Action: Have regular contact with alumni and constituents regarding school activities

Target: Each program sends annual email to alumni and friends

- *Regular updates provided through **PT** Linked-In page **SLP** Alumni Facebook Page*

Action: Send personal thank you notes to all individuals who donate

Target: 100% of donors thanked by Chair; 80% of donors thanked by student in the same calendar year
34/52 (65%) 2017 donors thanked in 2017

Action: Publicize program fund raising efforts on our website and bulletin boards

Target: Create page where we highlight how donations are used

Action: Individual programs formalize alumni engagement plan

Target: Each program to offer one event annually

Action: Develop and post wish list of needed items for each program

Target: Wish list posted on website.

Objective 6: Increase number of professional development offerings that generate revenue

Action: Offer continuing education experiences that have participant fees

Target: Offer two CEU events

Audiology

- *Mayo Clinic Teleconference, February 2017*

Speech-Language Pathology

- *Critically Appraised Topics in Early Childhood Communication Disorders, December 7, 2017 (no fee)*

Fits with College Goal 1: Diversity revenue sources to enhance revenue and increase revenue stability

Fits with University Bold Futures Pillar 3: NIU Financial and Program Viability

S:\\AHCD Shared Files>Strategic Plan