Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders
January 2020

The AHCD strategic plan will be reviewed and updated at least once a year.

The mission of the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders, with its programs in audiology, physical therapy, 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
- 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 Student Leadership/Advocacy

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

**Action:** Provide interdisciplinary opportunities for students
**Target:** Offer one case discussion
- Interdisciplinary Case Study Event – February 15, 2019
  - Secured individual with complex medical history to serve as case participant.
  - Collected medical history documents
  - Trained table facilitators
  - Oversaw set up of Duke Ellington Ballroom for event
  - Led event
- Students Promoting Active Reflection and Conversations (SPARC) – Fall 2019
  - Solicited faculty to present interdisciplinary content to graduate students. Each cohort of students in each of the three academic programs received information from the other two disciplines.
  - Graded student reflections regarding the lectures

**Action:** Provide funding for students presenting at professional conferences
**Target:** Fund 5 students presenting research at professional conferences
- Provided partial funding support for 6 students for travel to professional conferences where they presented their research
  - Kassondra Hemmen- American Academy of Audiology
  - Jacinto Fragoso- American Academy of Audiology
  - Alea Meyer- American Academy of Audiology
  - Alexa Scaliatine- Symposium of Research in Child Language Disorders
  - Rachel Stuehm- American Academy of Audiology
  - Shannon Vokac- American Academy of Audiology
Action: Highlight faculty certification/licensure credentials as a model for students
Target: 100% of faculty have certification/licensure listed on website
  • All 24 faculty who have certification/licensure, have it listed on their webpage

Objective 2: Increase advocacy (professional, patient, family) opportunities for students
Action: Support student group involvement in advocacy activities
Target: Schedule one event that explains advocacy and how to do it

Objective 3: Provide informal opportunities for students to meet with faculty
Action: Schedule events for informal networking and mentoring.
Target: Offer a minimum of two events for students to meet with faculty outside of academics.
  Offered Ice Cream Social – August 26, 2019

Fits with College Goal 3: Assure CHHS program excellence and accreditation
Fits with NIU Strategic Enrollment Management Plan Goal Three: Support equitable access

Goal 2: Increase alumni engagement opportunities

Objective 1: Increase communication and engagement with alumni
Action: Collect contact information from all graduating students.
Target: Enter non NIU contact information from 100% of graduate students and 80% of undergraduates in database –
  2019 graduates, collected information from
  • 84% undergraduate students
  • 100% graduate students

Objective 2: Increase number of alumni who are supervising students in clinical placements and allowing individuals to observe them at work
Action: Maintain listing of alumni’s contact information and locations so that current students can contact them regarding observation opportunities and external coordinators can discuss placements
Target: Have viable emails for 75% of all alumni from last 2 years –
  Collected info rom 100% of alumni with professional credentials over last 2 years

Objective 3: Highlight alumni and faculty on website
Action: Ensure AHCD website and blog features opportunities and outcomes
Target: Have at least three new posts for each discipline every year

Audiology
  • https://chhs.news.niu.edu/2019/05/13/audiology-day-highlights-accomplishments/
  • https://chhs.news.niu.edu/2019/01/22/audiology-students-poster-a-finalist-for-national-award/

Physical Therapy
  • https://chhs.news.niu.edu/2019/12/12/huskie-spotlight-dawn-brown-clinical-assistant-professor/
  • https://chhs.news.niu.edu/2019/09/30/students-helping-students-pt-gives-nursing-some-skills/
  • https://chhs.news.niu.edu/2019/04/22/legislator-visits-pt-students/
Speech-Language Pathology
- https://chhs.news.niu.edu/2019/12/20/bridges-choir-shares-holiday-joy/
- https://chhs.news.niu.edu/2019/12/02/slp-students-present-posters-volunteer-at-national-conference/
- https://chhs.news.niu.edu/2019/11/05/speech-language-pathology-grad-makes-people-com/
- https://chhs.news.niu.edu/2019/02/20/students-compete-in-an-slp-college-bowl/

Fits with College Goal 3: Assure CHHS program excellence and accreditation
Fits with NIU Strategic Enrollment Management Plan Goal One: student engagement.

**Goal 3: Create an environment that supports faculty research**

**Objective 1:** Highlight faculty research activity
Action: Spotlight faculty research areas on AHCD bulletin boards.
Target: 3 faculty featured annually

Action: Hold annual AHCD Research Day
Target: Promote a minimum of 10 research projects by faculty or faculty/student teams

April 19, 2019 highlighted 18 research projects

Hearing Association Convention, Rosemont, IL.

Hennings, M. (2019, February). Northern Illinois University Interprofessional Case Study Event
Presented at ISHA, Rosemont, IL.

Hill, H. Language Development in Preschool Children with Bilateral Cochlear Implants.

Hill, N. Comparing Picture Exchange to High-Tech AAC for Preschoolers with Autism.

Jarocki, D. (2018, November) The Relationship Between Pediatric Reading Disorders and
Vestibular Anomalies. Presented at the Red and Black Gala, River Forest, IL.

Jimenez, E., Comparing the Effectiveness of Bilingual and Monolingual Intervention on
Improving Outcomes in Four-Year-Old Children with a Language Disorder.

Music & Memory: NIU Students Open Doors to the Past for Individuals with Dementia.
Northern Illinois University’s Undergraduate Research and Artistry Day, DeKalb, IL.

single-subject examination of the effects of choir participation for Primary Progressive Aphasia.
Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention, Rosemont, IL.

Marquardt, M. Does Morphological Awareness Intervention Improve Vocabulary in
Preschoolers with Mixed Receptive-Expressive Language Disorder?

Olson, J. & Masur, E. (2019, March). Developmental changes in mothers’ internal state
utterances: Frequency and complexity differences by word category. Presented at the biannual
meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.


Rapp, M. For children with delayed expressive language development, does using focused stimulation in comparison to traditional therapy result in increased vocabulary?


Action: Highlight collaborative research
Target: Work with media to get at least one of AHCD’s collaborative projects in the news each year

Objective 2: Increase student awareness of research opportunities
Action: Class announcements/website postings regarding opportunities for students to be research participants
Target: Forward research opportunities faculty send to office support out to students
All study flyers that are forwarded are sent out to students (remember this needs to be stated as a distribution method in IRBs)

Action: Post faculty needs for student research help on website
Target: Work with college regarding required format
https://www.chhs.niu.edu/academics/research.shtml

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: Support faculty in obtaining grants that provides funds for indirect costs
Action: Increase faculty awareness of grant workshops and supports
Target: Offer one group session related to grant development annually.
Claire Mogren, Research Development Specialist (Research and Innovative Partnerships) attended faculty meeting August 20, 2019

Objective 2: Increase donations
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
100% of donors thanked by Chair, 42% thanked by a student

Objective 3: Increase number of professional development offerings that generate revenue
Action: Support programs to offer continuing education experiences that have participant fees
Target: Offer two CEU events
No events were fee generating – however, CEU events brought alumni to campus

- Auditory Processing Presentation- March 4, 2019
- Critically Appraised Topics in Social Communication Disorders- May 10, 2019
- Audiology Symposium- October 25, 2019
- Critically Appraised Topics in Early Childhood Communication Disorders- December 12, 2019

Objective 4: Meet Student Enrollment targets
Action: Support personal contact with admitted students.
Target: by 2024

200 B.S. in Communicative Disorders
48 Doctor of Audiology
96 Doctor of Physical Therapy
60 M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology

2019
140 B.S. in Communicative Disorders
23 Doctor of Audiology
94 Doctor of Physical Therapy
45 M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology

Chair called and emailed all declared UG COMD majors admitted to NIU for fall 2019

Objective 5: Increase Student Retention
Action: Inform students of and provide support services to all students
Target: 80% retention for undergraduate program
90% retention for graduate programs

- Sent out monthly emails to undergraduate students providing encouragement, resources, and updates
- Sent out Graduate Career and Professional Development Announcements to graduate students as received (minimum twice per term)
Objective 5: Increase Community Awareness of Clinical Offerings
Action: Support faculty/student participation in Community Health Fairs
Target: AHCD will participate in two events

Fits with College Goal 1: Diversity revenue sources to enhance revenue and increase revenue stability
Fits with Presidential Goal: Fiscal Sustainability – philanthropy and initiatives fund
Fits with NIU Strategic Enrollment Management Plan Goal 2: Student enrollment
Fits with NIU Strategic Enrollment Management Plan Goal 3: Support equitable access

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