Strategic Plan for the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders  
*March 2016 update*

The mission of the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders, with its programs in audiology, medical laboratory sciences, 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
- 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: 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 23, 2015: *NIU Health Advocacy Clinic: Legal and Medical Provides Working Together to Improve Client Health*
- February 4, 2016: *Allied Health Professionals and the Law*

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

**Target:** Offer one case discussion

- *College brown bag discussions – 2 per year*

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

**Target:** 5 students presenting research at professional conferences

**2015 Audiology**

**National Conference**

- *Detailed Analysis of High Frequency Auditory Brainstem Response in Tinnitus Patients: A Preliminary Study* (two students)

**State/Regional Conference:**

- *Case Study: Hyperacusis and superior semicircular canal dehiscence (SSCD)*
- *Case Study: Cervicogenic dizziness with comorbidity of right posterior canalthiasis and utricular dysfunction*
- *Characterization of peripheral vestibular dysfunction using the video head impulse test (vHIT) in athletes with concussions* **was a finalist in student research competition**
Speech Language Pathology

National Conference

State/Regional Conference:

Action: Highlight faculty certification/licensure credentials as a model for students.
Target: 100% of faculty have certification/licensure listed on website
- 22/35 (66%) people have credentials listed

Objective: 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

Medical Laboratory Sciences
- Students attended ASCLS-IL annual meeting and attended sessions on legislative work done by the professional organization

Audiology, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Physical Therapy
- booths at STEMfest October 17, 2015

Physical Therapy
- AHPT 700 students
  - wrote advocacy letters to legislatures
  - developed presentations for community groups
- Students host annual 5K to raise money for local charity to benefit patients

Audiology
- Presentations to high school students at career fairs regarding rights of individuals with hearing loss.
- Presentations to nursing homes regarding hearing health

Action: Support student participation in state and national organizations
Target: 25% of students enrolled in accredited programs

Rehabilitation Counseling
- IL International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals (IARP) 14/14 students

Physical Therapy
- IPTA/APTA members 34/36 students
Goal 2: Increase alumni engagement opportunities

Objective: Create mentoring program between successful alumni and graduating students
Action: Collect contact information of all graduating students.
Target: 50% of all undergraduate students and 90% of all graduate students

Action: Communicate with alumni via email at six months after graduation.
Target: Invite alumni to university, college, school, program event

Action: Invite alumni to speak in classes, supervise external placement, allow for undergraduate observers.
Target: Engage 5 new alumni with our programs

Objective: 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

Action: Create opportunities for internships and/or involvement for undergraduate students
Target: Place 30 undergraduates in unaccredited programs in an internship
- 2015 – total of 10 students participated in internship.
  Spring = 4; Summer = 2; Fall = 4
- 2016
  Spring offered AHCD 480 = 18 students

Goal 3: Create an environment that supports faculty research

Objective: Highlight faculty research activity
Action: Post faculty articles in newsletters
Target: 20 manuscripts, 1 awarded grant

Action: Faculty post research on https://www.researchgate.net/ and follow colleagues activity.
Target: 30/35 AHCD faculty on Research Gate
- 28/35 AHCD faculty on Research Gate – February, 2016
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
- Developmental Play group – Christina, Danai, Sarah, Joy
  - OT, PT, SLP, AUD, Child & Family studies, Nursing
- 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
- Central Auditory Processing – Mariah, Pat
  - AUD, SLP
- Literacy Outreach - Pat
  - SLP, Literacy, Psych
- Pre Diabetes – Masih
  - MLS, Nutrition & Dietetics
- Wearable Technology - Christina
  - assessing exercise program in children with autism
  - validating wearable technology to monitor physical activity levels
    - PT, Engineering Technology, Kinesiology
- Efficacy of Lee Silverman Voice Training (LSVT) Loud & Big training in non-Parkinson’s patients - Christina
  - PT, Nursing, SLP, Bioelectronics, Physical Education
- Physical Activity & Global development
  - Dietetics, PT, SLP, possibly kinesiology
- Hearing Conservation
  - AUD, Environmental Engineering
- 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
- Voice- Miriam
  - SLP, Music
- Closed captioning & noise (adding background noise to the classroom) – Matt, Bryan
  - AUD, RC
- Balance screenings- MJ
  - AUD, PT
- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)- Danai, Allison, Christina
  - PT, SLP, OT
Objective: 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 facilities/research facilities) regarding potential research projects.
Target: Each program contacts one external source regarding potential collaborations

Objective: Increase student awareness of research opportunities
Action: Announce opportunities for students to be research participants in classes and post on website
Target: Forward opportunities to office support requesting they be disseminated to all faculty/staff. Post on student opportunities site

- All research opportunities that have been forwarded to office support have been forwarded and posted.

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: Continue enhancement and improvement of Physical Therapy and Speech-Language-Hearing Clinics’ business practices

Action: Discuss contract opportunities
Target: Gain one new contract

Action: Initiate electronic health records system/practice management software
Target: Software in place by July 1, 2015
- EHR in progress – March 2016

Objective: Integrate clinical services of our academic programs

Action: Advertise specialized services that are available
Target: Advertise one specialized service

Action: Explore group experiences
Target: Offer one group clinical program
- Fall 2015 - Interdisciplinary Developmental Play Group offered (physical therapy, speech-language pathology, and dietetics)

Action: Explore Lee Silverman (SLP/PT) training – Think Loud/Think Big for individuals with Parkinson’s disease
Target: 1 professional trained
- LSVT-BIG Trained – 4 PT faculty trained
- LSVT- LOUD – 2 SLP faculty exploring training opportunities
Action: Explore services for NIU students who are veterans  
Target: Contact Military and Post-Traditional Student Services office

Action: Explore contracting with VA hospital/clearinghouse  
Target: Develop relationship with nearby VA hospitals

Action: Investigate grant opportunities (Tricounty, telemedicine, brain injury/concussion, training grants)  
Target: Submit 2 clinically related grants  
- *Interdisciplinary Play Group*  
- *Joint Attention Intervention for Early Head Start Children at Risk for Autism*

Action: Offer Hearing Loop installation services  
Target: Attend training regarding Looping & Build relationships with manufacturers regarding looping  
- *King Chung is trained and provided quote to NIU for classroom*

Objective: contract with organizations who want to use our facilities or credentials  
Action: develop contract with one organization  
- *2016 Dixon hospital contracted to use our ASHA CEU affiliation.*

Objective: Increase donations  
Action: Have regular contact with alumni and constituents regarding school activities  
Target: Each program sends annual email to alumni and friends

Action: Send personal thank you notes to all individuals who donate  
Target: 100% of donors will be thanked by Chair  
- *59 different people made donations to AHCD in 2015*  
- *59/59 people received Thank you from Chair*  
80% of people who donate will be thanked by a student in the same calendar year  
- *23/59 = 39% received a thank you letter from an AHCD student*

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

**Physical Therapy**  
- *2016: DPT alumni engagement event January 16, 2016*

**Rehabilitation Counseling**  
- *2015: Rehabilitation Services Networking Event, November 7, 2015*

**All**  
- *2015: Clinic Open House, April 18, 2015*
Objective: Expand Clinical Service Provision as staffing allows
  Action: Resume hearing screenings/services for community
  Target: Offer community event

**Audiology**
  - *Celebration Clinic Health Care Fair (hearing screenings and info) November 7, 2015*

Action: Participate in Health Fairs
Target: Participate in two events
  - *Celebration Clinic Health Care Fair– providing hearing screenings and information to the public November 7, 2015*

Objective: Increase number of professional development offerings that generate revenue
  Action: Offer continuing education experiences that have participant fees
  Target: Offer two CEU events

**Speech-language pathology**
  - *Picturing Language: A “How-to” Workshop on October 3, 2015*
    
    *Bruce R. Baker, A.M., L.H.D. (Hons. Caus.), Tracy M. Kovach, Ph.D., CCC-SLP*

**Physical Therapy**
  - *CCIP (Credentialed Clinical Instructor Program) Course*
    - *March 13-14, 2015*
    - *May 16-17, 2015*
    - *August 8-9, 2015*

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