In July 2011, the School of Health and Human Sciences (HHS) was established following a year-long planning process. While 2011-12 was officially a year of transition for the new unit, the faculty, staff and students of the School maintained their ongoing record of excellence and high levels of activity in teaching, research and community engagement. The following are highlights of the exciting first year:

Teaching. Academic Program Review showcased the excellence of many academic programs in HHS. Two programs in CSD (B.S. and M.A. degrees), the M.S. in Gerontology and three doctoral programs (in HDF, NTR, and PHE) were determined to be ‘Exceptionally Strong in Quality and/or Function/Demand, and should be considered for future investment’ (Chancellor’s Report on APR). Subsequently, committees made recommendations regarding how these programs might use any forthcoming investment to enhance their excellence. Beyond APR, many departments and programs were engaged in extensive modifications to their Student Learning Plans, resulting from feedback from the Student Learning Enhancement Committee (SLEC) as well as departmental reflection stemming from accreditation review. These changes ranged from a complete overhaul of mission, outcomes and measures, to clarification of only a subset of one or more of these elements. Finally, the teaching excellence of individual faculty was recognized: Prof. Jack Register (SWK) received the HHS Teaching Excellence Award, Dr. Aaron Terranova (KIN) received the Gail Hennis Graduate Teaching Award and Dr. Heather Helms (HDF) will receive the UNCG Alumni Teaching Excellence Award for a Tenured Faculty Member at the Fall 2012 Faculty Convocation.

Research: Through the support of the HHS Office of Research, HHS faculty developed 76 proposals requesting $39,198,326 during AY 2011-12. Nearly $6 million in external funding was received for research support. Faculty are involved in proposed projects within HHS as well as in collaboration with other schools. As of March 2012, the UNCG Office of Sponsored Programs reported 30 Interdisciplinary proposals submitted in FY 2011-2012. The School of HHS accounted for approximately 30% of these proposals. Students are extensively involved in
the research enterprise. More than 100 papers were published by HHS faculty that included student co-authors. HHS faculty published over 200 refereed papers. Students co-authored more than 150 of the over 300 presentations made by faculty in HHS during 2011-12. The research expertise of HHS faculty is well-respected nationally and internationally, as demonstrated by the over 1000 pre-publication reviews completed by HHS faculty during the year. As an investment in future research endeavors, the Office of Research was able to distribute $207,629 to faculty and students. This funding supports summer stipends for grant writing and manuscript preparation, equipment purchases, summer graduate assistantships, and travel and data collection.

Community engagement and service: The School of Health and Human Sciences was chosen to “beta test” engaged scholarship for UNCG. HHS is a model for UNCG on how to promote and measure community engagement, under the leadership of Dr. Bob Wineburg, HHS Director of Community Engagement. As an initial step, faculty were surveyed regarding the extent of their community involvement. Faculty reported 781 affiliations with a range of community groups and organizations. One example of community engagement in HHS extends to the North Carolina borders through the active Telepractice Program in the Speech and Hearing Program at Gateway University Research Park. Remote and underserved school districts across North Carolina are beginning to utilize telepractice to meet the communication needs of their students—and finding success. Rural and small districts often have a difficult time recruiting qualified speech-language pathologists. Approximately eighteen hundred telepractice sessions were delivered to North Carolina schools in 2011-12, in Perquimans County in eastern NC and Yancey County in the western part of the State. Another example involves the Department of Nutrition, Jigna Dharod continues her research with the Montagnard Dega Association to recruit and advance research and understanding food insecurity related issues among Montagnard refugee families in North Carolina. She also works with agencies and programs that directly work with refugee families, such as RING network, WIC office, and the Church World Services Resettlement Agency.