



# **School of Health and Human Sciences**

## **Strategic Plan**

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**2012**

**HHS Strategic Planning Committee**

# School of Health and Human Sciences Strategic Plan 2012

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### Introduction

In October 2011, Dr. Celia Hooper, Dean of the new School of Health and Human Sciences (HHS), established a committee to create a strategic plan for the realigned school. The committee, comprised of experienced faculty members representing the School's nine departments and programs, was charged with creating vision, mission, and values statements, along with primary goals and strategies.

The Strategic Planning Committee, working closely with the Dean's Administrative Council, Research Advisory Council, and the HHS Transition Steering Committee, chose three foci for this plan – teaching, research, and community engagement. Following several draft reviews by the Dean, Associate Deans, Department Chairs and Program Directors, and HHS faculty, feedback was carefully considered and incorporated into the plan by the committee. The strategic plan was presented formally to the HHS Faculty Assembly on April 25, 2012.

HHS Strategic Planning Committee members: Yorghos Apostolopoulos, Dan Bibeau, Jacalyn Claes, Dave Demo, Bill Dudley, Mark Fine, Kathy Jamieson, Cheryl Lovelady, Eileen Miller, and Stuart J. Schleien, Chair.

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### Vision Statement

The School of HHS aims to inspire and equip people and transform institutions to work in ways that make the world better, safer, healthier, and more humane and just.

### Mission Statement

The School of HHS, through teaching, scholarship, community engagement and service, prepares new generations of professionals, leaders, scholars, and entrepreneurs to enhance the quality of life of individuals, families, and communities.

### Values Statement

As a community of scholars, the School of HHS values:

- Improved health, well-being, and quality of life for populations, communities, and individuals worldwide
- Care and respect for communities, with a focus on sustainability
- An academic environment in which diversity, inclusiveness, and respect for all is encouraged and celebrated
- Equitable partnerships when engaging with individuals, communities, and institutions in service and research
- Ethical principles applied to teaching, research, and community engagement
- A dynamic intellectual community that embraces interdisciplinary collaboration, creativity of thought, and innovativeness of practice

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### Teaching Goal

**Provide state-of-the-art instruction and learning opportunities, including distance education, to undergraduate and graduate students to prepare citizens to meet the rigorous challenges of an increasingly diverse society and an ever-changing global community.**

**Objective 1.** Enrich education and training with more interdisciplinary and interdepartmental courses and programs for both undergraduate and graduate students

#### *Strategies:*

- Create a process to encourage the development of new courses within and between departments
  - Examples include:
    - Epidemiology of obesity or chronic disease
    - Work and health
    - Research methods, research ethics, and grant writing
    - Statistics
    - Professional ethics and professional development
    - Interdisciplinary seminars addressing community issues
    - Entrepreneurship in health and human sciences
- Foster interdisciplinary internships and other field experiences

**Objective 2.** Foster a community of teaching and learning scholars who are resourced to engage undergraduate and graduate students in culturally relevant and diverse instructional activities, including research projects, community development, and other learning experiences

#### *Strategies:*

- Engage students in the research process through activities such as thesis and dissertation development, undergraduate research, research practica, special projects, Honors courses, and capstone projects
- Facilitate the involvement of students in learning experiences that feature community engaged partnerships
- Encourage students to participate in international and intercultural experiences
- Engage students in entrepreneurship
- Recognize and support faculty participation in non-classroom learning

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**Objective 3.** Maintain and enhance our professionally accredited programs

***Strategies:***

- Create and support dedicated faculty roles in the administration of accredited programs recognizing the demands of accrediting bodies
- Create a system that supports internships, placement contracts, recruitment materials, self-study documents, and interdisciplinary learning experiences

### **Research Goal**

**Extend our knowledge of the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities with the use of state-of-the-art research methodologies.**

**Objective 1.** Support and enhance faculty and student research productivity

***Strategies:***

- Strengthen research infrastructure provided by HHS Office of Research and UNCG's Office of Research and Economic Development to enhance the efficiency of externally and internally funded research and scholarship
- Develop and implement an effective model for acquiring and sustaining external funding for research and scholarship, including providing: internal seed funding, summer support for grant writing endeavors, consultation on research methods and statistical issues; and a voluntary library of successfully funded grant proposals
- Increase funding for graduate students, particularly out-of-state tuition waivers, summer research assistantships, professional travel, and provide internal funding for post-doctoral positions

**Objective 2.** Foster the development of a community of scholars in which faculty think in scientific and entrepreneurial ways and mentor students throughout their professional development

***Strategies:***

- Foster the growth of interdisciplinary research teams that strategically collaborate on projects of shared interest
- Coordinate workshops led by nationally and internationally known scholars that focus on cutting-edge research methodologies and evidence-based practices
- Coordinate with other scholarly organizations at UNCG (e.g., centers) to provide faculty and students with opportunities to share their work and approaches to research

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- Support a spirit of entrepreneurship among faculty in identifying ways to support their research

**Objective 3.** Expand dissemination of scholarship in both peer reviewed and alternative publication outlets to reach different audiences

***Strategies:***

- Disseminate research findings to applied professionals, such as policymakers, program planners, practitioners, counselors, therapists, and others
- Disseminate scholarly information to the general public in ways that can improve health and well-being

**Objective 4.** Incorporate knowledge from research and scholarship into our teaching to enrich instruction and ensure that students develop into skilled practitioners, researchers, and educators

***Strategies:***

- Promote guest presentations by leading researchers in undergraduate and graduate courses, where they present recent developments in their disciplines and in new research methodologies
- Support cross-disciplinary proseminars in which advanced students meet with faculty to engage in scholarly debate, presentations of new research findings, and training in novel research methods

### **Community Engagement Goal**

**Support and expand community partnerships and scholarship within and beyond the university that transform the health, development, inclusion, and quality of life of all citizens, especially those from underserved, diverse, and vulnerable populations.**

**Objective 1.** Maintain and enhance community partnerships and outreach

***Strategies:***

- Formally recognize and support community partnerships and outreach in both faculty and community partner advancement
- Provide centralized resources to efficiently and effectively integrate community partnerships and outreach in areas that leverage and complement our core service and educational activities (model contracts for agencies)

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- Target community partnerships in marginalized communities committed to addressing social issues
- Expand learning communities to underserved settings where faculty, students, and community members co-construct new modes of collaboration and methodology, and disseminate knowledge in varied, user-friendly formats

**Objective 2.** Support and expand collaborative, community-engaged scholarship that transforms the health, development, inclusion, and quality of life of all citizens

***Strategies:***

- Encourage community-engaged interdisciplinary scholarship
- Provide incentives (e.g., partner grants for community-based participatory research) that invite community partners into collaborative research projects that leverage and complement our core research activities
- Work collaboratively with community partners to disseminate research findings to all stakeholders in user-friendly formats