CAHS Unit Strategic Plan

Unit Mission: The mission of the College of Allied Health Sciences (CAHS) is to educate and train health professionals to be knowledgeable and skilled in current practice and positioned for success and leadership in their discipline. We accomplish our mission through effective teaching, research, service, clinical practice, and clinical practice management that engages students and the community resulting in improved health care for NC and beyond.

Unit Description: CAHS is composed of: Additions & Rehabilitation Studies, Biostatistics, Clinical Laboratory Science, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Health Services & Information Management, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant Studies. Plans are underway to add Nutrition Sciences. Of those units even offer baccalaureate and graduate degrees. The Department of Biostatistics provides courses and consultation in statistics to the college and ECU community. Within those departments, CAHS disciplines include rehabilitation services, rehabilitation and career counseling, substance abuse and clinical counseling, clinical laboratory science, audiology, speech/language pathology, communication sciences, health services management, health informatics, health information management, physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician assistant studies, nutrition sciences, and dietetics. Of those, the ten underlined have national examinations leading to certification or licensure.

Commitment 1: Maximize Student Success
University Action: We will establish competency-based requirements for all degree programs

CAHS Unit Objective: Graduate CAHS students who qualify for practice in their disciplines.

- CAHS Metric: Annually exceed national averages on pass rates of first-time test takers in professional programs with licensure and/or certification examinations.

- CAHS Unit Action: Evaluate CAHS degree programs to ensure curriculum requirements are aligned with respective accreditation and/or certification bodies and appropriately modify curriculum and/or field experiences as needed.

Commitment 2: Serve the Public
University Action: We will inspire our students to be engaged citizens and leaders.

CAHS Objective: Engage CAHS students in expanded community engagement opportunities with rural and underserved communities.
CAHS Metric: Between 2014 and 2019, increase by 20% the number of CAHS students engaged in and with rural and underserved communities (baseline 2014).

- CAHS Action: Track students by rural and underserved sites and adjust student placements accordingly.
- CAHS Action: Add a question to the student exit survey asking where the student interacted with rural and underserved clients (i.e. client’s home, Greenville clinic, community clinics, etc.).
- CAHS Action: Support the CAHS Student Leaders Council’s service activities in rural and underserved communities.

University Action: We will be a national leader in revamping health sciences education, incorporating interdisciplinary education and quality improvement into our health sciences curricula

CAHS Objective: Integrate curricular and co-curricular interprofessional educational (IPE) opportunities where CAHS student learn about, with and from students from disciplines other than their own.

- CAHS Metric: Between 2014 and 2019, increase the number of CAHS disciplines participating in IPE experiences to 100% (2014 baseline).

- CAHS Action: Expand current CAHS student IPE experiences focused on quality of care by adding Virtual IPE Case Studies, CAHS Grand Rounds, and events sponsored by the CAHS Student Leaders Council and ECU Chapter of IHI (Institute for Health Care Improvement).

Commitment 3: Lead Regional Transformation
University Action: We will dramatically expand ECU’s research enterprise by investing in the people, tools, and facilities needed to conduct mission-driven research.

CAHS Objective: Drive discovery and innovation in the allied health sciences.

- CAHS Metric: Between 2014 and 2019, increase externally funded CAHS research awards by 33%. (2014 baseline)

- CAHS Unit Action: Strengthen college infrastructure (mentors, networks, grants administration, identification of funding opportunities) to facilitate submission of externally funded research.
University Action: We are recognized as a national leader in the use of technology to deliver health services to dispersed rural populations.

CAHS Objective: Prepare CAHS students to utilize state of the art technology to enhance health services provided to rural and underserved areas.

- CAHS Metric: Infuse health technologies into 100% of CAHS disciplines.

- CAHS Action: Maximize CAHS faculty expertise and resources related to telehealth/telemedicine/telecare, health apps, electronic records & health information technology, smart phones, mobile clinics, etc. by creating a technology speaker's bureau that is used to provide content expertise in CAHS courses.