

Executive Summary of Strategic Plan

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Strategic Goals

Department of Communication Disorders

College of Health, Education, and Social Transformation (HEST)

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

Communication Disorders Vision: The Communication Disorders Program is dedicated to excellence and best practices for delivering speech, language, hearing, cognitive, and swallowing services to diverse populations.

Communication Disorders Mission: The mission of the Communication Disorders Program is to provide training and leadership to positively impact the lives of persons with speech, language, hearing, cognitive, and swallowing disorders. This mission is accomplished through the preparation of individuals who will provide services in a variety of settings by facilitating their development from student to scholar to professional. The mission is actualized through functional, collaborative, and accountable best practices in teaching and learning; administration, supervision, and leadership; research and creative activities; and community outreach. Our inclusive academic and clinical program is committed to respond to the diverse needs of the students, the clients, and other community stakeholders we serve.

Summary: Overall, *community-building* within the department and the communities we serve is foundational throughout all programs in the Department of Communication Disorders. We leverage the *power of collaborative relationships* that positively impact those we serve.

We promote a *welcoming, safe, and respectful environment* to foster a *community of listening, co-learning, and engagement* through *genuine relationship-building*. Our collective responsibility is to promote *social accountability and stewardship* by investing in our students, faculty, staff, and the communities we serve. We embrace the *scholarship of engagement* as a key framework to advance *discovery* of new knowledge through empirical research and elevate the scholarships of *integration, application, and teaching*.

Strategic Plan Goals:

Goal 1: Build a successful online undergraduate program - The department offers residential undergraduate and graduate programs in Communication Disorders/Speech Language Hearing Sciences and is now aiming to offer a high-quality online undergraduate program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Disorders. In order to offer access to undergraduate education in the field of Communication Disorders to

students who are unable or do not desire to complete a residential program, the department will offer the opportunity to obtain an undergraduate degree through the NMSU Global online campus. Responsible – All academic faculty, but especially NMSU Global funded faculty. This goal aligns with NMSU LEADS Goal 5 – Build an Online Global Campus.

Goal 2: Recruitment of Undergraduate Students – The department aims to increase enrollment in both the in-person (NMSU Main Campus) undergraduate program and the online NMSU Global undergraduate program. HOW? – In collaboration with community partners, we will attend career fairs, and other events (i.e., TRIO, HOSA meetings) for high school and middle school students to promote our departmental undergraduate programs. Furthermore, we will offer our introductory class SPHS 2110 Introduction to Communication Disorders as dual credit class for high school seniors. Responsible – all faculty in the Communication Disorders undergraduate and graduate program. This goal aligns with NMSU LEADS Goal 1 – Enhance Student Success and Social Mobility.

GOAL 3: Increase the number of students completing honors and master theses and increase the number of students presenting at state and/or national conferences – The research active faculty within the department is already involving many undergraduate and graduate students in research projects, and student research has been visible at the state level during recent years. However, we can improve the number of undergraduate honors theses and graduate students' master's theses. Currently two M.A. students are working on master's theses and no undergraduate students are working on honor's theses/projects in the department. It is the goal to increase these numbers by any amount. Responsible – all research active faculty within the department. This goal aligns with NMSU LEADS Goal 2 – Elevate Research and Creativity.

GOAL 4: Increase clinical opportunities and access to group services in the on-campus Edgar R. Garrett Speech and Hearing Center training clinic – The Edgar R. Garrett Speech and Hearing Center (ERG) provides access to clinical services for individuals with communication disorders to the surrounding communities, in addition to providing clinical training opportunities for our graduate students. However, much of the

service provision happens via individual treatment sessions. It is the goal to offer more group therapy access in ERG, especially to adult populations (i.e., Parkinson's group, Aphasia group, etc.) in order to fill a community-need as well as to prepare students better in leading group therapy sessions. Responsible – all clinically active faculty. This goal aligns with NMSU LEADS Goal 3 – Amplify Extension and Outreach.