

THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES IN 2019 A VISION STATEMENT

Context and Challenges

In 2019 United States society will be more diverse, in multiple ways, than today. Our graduates will need to be prepared to excel in multicultural settings that equitably serve diverse clientele. To be effective as knowledge workers in a high-tech, fast-paced democracy that will place increasing value on quality schooling and learning, our students will require clinical placements in school- and agency-based settings that immerse them in theory-driven and wisely mentored internships. Seamless partnerships that enable students to move smoothly between classroom and field setting will be essential.

Creating and sustaining partnerships with schools and human service agencies that can meld theory and practice in new ways will require a level of anticipation and responsiveness that has not been typical for universities. Competitive market forces and an increasingly stretched education and human service budget beckon us to streamline bureaucracy and creatively reach out to prospective students as potential customers for our services.

Given increased demand for services to be delivered to off-campus and distant sites, the expectation of potential students and customers that we will bring services to them will continue to expand.

Consistent with these expectations, growing numbers of prospective students will be seeking certificates or upgrades and may not be as attracted to traditional degree programs.

Even as societal demands for accessibility, responsiveness, and accountability grow, state funding of public education will at best remain flat. Currently two-thirds of our funding comes from non-state sources. University and College cultivation of public and private grant opportunities and the creation of a culture of giving amongst our alumni and friends will be essential.

Mission

As a professional college in a major research university, the College of Education and Human Services' mission in 2019 will encompass the three areas of teaching, research, and service. Currently, and increasingly in the future, integration between teaching, research, and service in the College will grow. Because of the field-based nature of our undergraduate and graduate programs, College faculty and students spend significant periods of time in off-campus settings. Need for collaboration and partnership with schools, service agencies, and community colleges will continue to build.

The College will prepare professionals in education and human services and provide opportunities for graduate study and ongoing learning and development. College graduates become teachers, social workers, recreation administrators, rehabilitation counselors, to name but a few of the careers which our graduates enter. In all human service and education careers, it is essential for graduates to be knowledgeable and skilled in their cognitive area of expertise, to be understanding and sensitive to the needs of the diverse populations they serve, and to be skilled in the creative application of current technologies. The College is committed to preparing ethically responsible leaders who are critically reflective about their profession and who recognize they must continue to learn and refine their knowledge, values, skills throughout their professional lives.

Complementary to our undergraduate and graduate teaching mission, the research mission of the College will emphasize theory-based and applied research. Societal expectations for accountability and tangible evidences of learning will provide incentive and opportunity for high-quality research that significantly impacts the professions represented in the College. In keeping with the spirit and mission of a research extensive university, faculty will create and disseminate new knowledge through continued national leadership and service to professional bodies.

The College's service/outreach mission to schools and community agencies will remain vital. A significant portion of our teaching and research will occur in off-campus settings and be fully integrated with

professional service. Faculty will continue to provide visible and significant professional service on national and international levels.

Priorities

To excel in its teaching, research, and service missions in 2019, the College of Education and Human Services must

- Nurture a culture that encourages and rewards interdisciplinary communication and collaboration
- Offer courses and programs that are responsive to market needs and expectations for on-site and distant delivery
- Create new and deeper levels of partnership with human service agencies, community colleges, and schools that support theory-driven, experientially-based internships.
- Provide technologically rich teaching and learning environments for students and faculty
- Recruit and support a diverse faculty and student body that reflects societal diversity
- Build upon College success in securing federal, state, and private support for teaching, research, and service
- Practice and encourage hands-on, engaging models of teaching and learning that are informed by current research and theory
- Support basic and applied research and creative endeavor for the production and dissemination of new knowledge
- Strengthen quality relationships with alumni and friends to sustain a culture of giving

Summary

The College of Education and Human Services takes pride in its rich tradition of preparing education and human service professionals in partnership with practitioners, creating and disseminating knowledge and best practice, and providing professional service to communities and schools. In 2019 we will remain committed to our core mission: Educating for tomorrow, today.