

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

### Strategic Plan Executive Summary

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders strategic plan for September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2027, consists of five overarching themes with several objectives under each. These themes are an outgrowth of the six themes of the strategic plan of the College of Health Professions to ensure department themes are congruent with those of the college.

The five themes of the Department strategic plan are:

1. Facilitation of student success
2. Expansion and accreditation of programs
3. Engagement with the community
4. Creation of a research culture
5. Improvement of department infrastructure

The six themes of the College strategic plan are:

1. Reduce the opportunity and achievement gap for students
2. Build a world-class teacher-practitioner-scholar community
3. Create learning environments to support student access and success in a future healthcare system
4. Build strategic academia-government-industry-philanthropy partnerships to meet regional and Texas workforce and research needs
5. Engage our communities for health promotion and well-being
6. Reward excellence

**Theme #1** consists of seven objectives, including developing scholarships for students; providing mentorship opportunities for students; hosting a variety of 'mini' programs to provide students exposure to a wider range of clientele in the Speech and Hearing Center; and providing educational opportunities for non-Hispanic minority students. *These objectives correspond to college themes 1 and 3.*

**Theme #2** consists of eleven objectives, including developing a leveling (i.e., post-baccalaureate) curriculum; developing a professional doctoral program in audiology and seeking accreditation through the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology; developing a research doctoral program in communication sciences and disorders; applying for accreditation of the American Sign Language Interpreting program; and increasing revenues generated by the Speech and Hearing Center. *These objectives correspond to college themes 1, 2, and 3.*

**Theme #3** consists of six objectives, including creating an advisory board for the American Sign Language Interpreting program; establishing outreach programs to provide speech, language and hearing services

to low-income residents of the Rio Grande Valley region; developing a mentorship program for practicing ASL interpreters who have yet to pass their certification exams; earning continuing education provider status through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; developing greater intercollegiate educational, clinical and research opportunities; and collaborating between American Sign Language Interpreting and Communication Sciences and Disorders to establish a language and literacy program for school-aged children. *These objectives correspond to college themes 2, 3, 4 and 5.*

**Theme #4** consists of five objectives, including increasing the number of publications in peer-reviewed professional journals; increasing the number of faculty engaged in external grant writing and funding; revising the department's promotion and tenure guidelines to encourage greater research productivity; increasing the number of Research Fellows through the College of Health Professions; and developing a research mentorship program for junior faculty. *These objectives correspond to college themes 2 and 6.*

**Theme #5** consists of seven objectives, including moving all clinical documentation in the Speech and Hearing Center to electronic medical records (EMR); updating the Speech and Hearing Center's observation and recording equipment; providing state-of-the-art laboratories to enhance student learning in the areas of AAC, language and learning, speech production, and voice and resonance; and providing state-of-the-art laboratories for new tenure-track faculty in the communication sciences and disorders research doctoral program. *These objectives correspond to college themes 2 and 3.*

The department's strategic plan is available to any interested party upon request. Email the department chair, Dr. Donald R. Fuller, at [donald.fuller@utrgv.edu](mailto:donald.fuller@utrgv.edu) to request a copy.