

UALR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

ANNUAL REPORT - 2016

I. Mission

Partnering with the community, we provide an interdisciplinary, scholarly, and collaborative environment to prepare professionals to practice their respective disciplines and become leaders in central Arkansas and beyond.

II. Values

As a college comprised of professional, individually accredited programs, the values of the college are heavily influenced by the mission of the university as well as by a variety of accrediting bodies. For example, in the School of Social Work, the NASW Code of Ethics provides a foundation for both the curriculum and the professional standards to which both faculty and students are held. In the School of Education, the principles of integrity, quality, equity, and sustainability guide current priorities and future focus.

III. Vision

The CEHP will be a leader in graduating students prepared for challenging, meaningful, high-demand fields both within Arkansas and nationally. Our students are highly invested in community engagement and the majority of our graduates participate in high impact learning activities such as internships, field experiences, and service learning activities through their programs of study. The college will continue to hold to the community focus, while seeking new ways to grow our student population through high impact/high priority initiatives.

IV. Highlights

Highlights for each academic unit and center are noted on the individual unit annual reports. The following are selected highlights from the College:

- The **CEHP Student Success Center (SSC)** has expanded student contact opportunities through the use of appointment software and the newly developed data portal that allows for the coordination of academic advising. The CEHP Academic Student Success (CASS) initiative was designed to facilitate timely and accurate student advising and a more predictive model for course offerings. This data portal enables ease of communication with the student and a clear pathway for monitoring student progress toward degree completion. In the past year over 800 students received academic advising or assistance from the SSC staff.
- CEHP development activities resulted in an all-time high of **gift donations** totaling \$600,000. A recent \$300,000 gift will provide the Student Success Center with a full-time licensed Social Worker as well as emergency funds to assist students with acute funding needs. The goal of this initiative is student support and retention.
- The **CEHP Advisory Board** has been expanded and committees have been formed in the areas of development, education, and health.

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- **MidSOUTH** serves as the community service unit of the School of Social Work and serves as a training and education organization to provide essential tools for social service providers in the areas of addiction, child welfare, family support, nurturing parenting, mental health, prevention, distance learning, and organizational development services. MidSOUTH ended the fiscal year with over \$8 million in grant and contract funds. MidSOUTH has recently been awarded contracts and subcontracts through the Division of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS) to assume the Statewide Prevention Programs. MidSOUTH was recognized as the UALR unit with the highest amount of grant and contract awards this year.
- **2 plus 2 program partnerships** have been developed with key community college partners. These include: Pulaski Technical College (Elementary and Middle Childhood Education), UACC-Batesville (Elementary Education); National Park College (Social Work), and UA-Texarkana/Hope (Social Work). Agreements with PTC for Special Education and Social Work are in process. Agreements with ASU-Beebe for Elementary and Middle Childhood Education are also in process.
- The **School of Education** officially combined the former departments of Teacher Education and Educational Leadership. With the development of a new Rural and Urban Education (RULE) master's program to begin Fall 2016, the school will have the only program in the nation that prepares school leaders for these diverse populations.
- In addition to provision of training and resources for teachers, the **Jodie Mahony Center for Gifted Education** continued to provide enrichment opportunities for elementary and K-8th grade students through program such as STEM Starters+, the Summer Laureate Program, and Gifted Girls in the Middle: Career Enrichment, Exploration and Belongingness in STEM.
- **The Center for Literacy** provides annual summer institutes to Arkansas school teams to collaborate on comprehensive literacy for school improvement. Center for Literacy provides ongoing professional development via distance learning technology to Arkansas teachers, interventionists, and literacy coaches in evidence-based practices for improving literacy achievement of K-6 students. The CEHP and North Little Rock School District (NLRSD) collaborated on a Partnership Scholarship Agreement to enable NLRSD teachers to enroll in graduate courses in the Reading program. As a result of this cost-sharing partnership, 15 NLRSD teachers have taken courses to prepare them as intervention specialists for the district.
- The **School of Counseling, Human Performance, and Rehabilitation** officially combined the former departments of Counseling, Adult and Rehabilitation Education and Health, Human Performance, and Sport Management. Faculty in this unit are very active in applied scholarship, with extensive research publications and scholarly presentations at both the local and national levels. **Dr. Jennifer K. Holtz** was selected as the new director of the School.
- **Dr. Aryn Amlani** was selected as the new chairperson for the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology.

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- The **Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology** faculty are highlighted for their scholarship activities, which includes publication of 8 books, numerous research publications and presentations, and a strong history of grant submission and funding.
- **Enrollment increases:** The Department of Nursing and School of Social Work enrollments have reached an all-time high. The School of Social Work has implemented a new on-line program that is scheduled to begin Fall 2016.
- This year, an updated **UAMS/UALR Memorandum of Understanding** linked to the audiology/speech pathology partnership was finalized.
- The **Department of Nursing** has an established and multi-faceted student success program that includes workshops, a faculty/student mentoring program, a lending library of study materials, as well as study sessions.

V. Assessment

The majority of programs in the CEHP are accredited programs requiring assessment at a national and state level in addition to university expectations. In order to receive and maintain accreditation, most programs must not only assess, but also be able to show how data from measures of student learning outcomes is utilized to improve program offerings. The CEHP Academic Student Success (CASS) initiative provides centralized data collection that will enable academic departments to access student advising and assessment data needed for accreditation reports. For more detail on specific unit assessment tools and accreditation standards, please see individual unit reports.

The CEHP Assessment Committee, with representation from each academic unit in the college, continued a focus on developing a comprehensive strategy for assessment across the college. This committee worked with unit assessment committees to support data collection methods as well as implementation of feedback for program improvement. The committee also tackled the difficult issue of course evaluations, increasing consistency across units.

VI. Priorities for Next Year

- Continue to develop and implement the **CEHP Academic Student Success (CASS) initiative**.
- **Consolidate and clarify technology support services** with the CEHP. Relocate staff to centralized area on DKS 5th floor.
- Actively engage faculty in **comprehensive curricular reviews**, consideration of high impact learning opportunities, and innovative approaches to address current and future workforce needs.
- Develop a model for **college-based student support** that demonstrates a positive impact on student retention and progression, connectivity with existing supports systems, and maximization of available resources.
- **Expand partnerships** within the metropolitan community and surrounding areas.

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- Continue to work with CEHP departments/schools to streamline course offerings as well as refine and refocus existing programs to **increase recruitment and retention** of students.
- Continue to **grow 2 plus 2 initiatives**, including those offered in distance modalities, for Education and Social Work. Build on existing articulation agreements for Nursing programs as well.