**Long-Term Strategic Plan**  
Graduate Program in Speech-Language Pathology  
Queens College  

**Executive Summary 2019-2020**

**Long-Term Strategic Goals – 2018-2021**

1. Obtain ‘state of the art space’ to house the graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology and increase its capacity to provide additional clinical services and community programs.

2. Further increase the integration and interconnections between coursework, clinical teaching/practicum and research in graduate clinical education.

3. Increase information and interconnections between the program, college and surrounding community (webinars, family night).

4. Maintain and further enhance the excellence of the graduate program and its organizational effectiveness and efficiency.

**Annual Sub-goals and Outcomes – 2019-20**

**Sub-Goal for LT Goal #1 above.** Obtain appropriate ‘swing space’ to meet the needs of the Speech-Language Hearing Center and its clinical and academic programs while the gut renovation of the current location takes place. (move anticipated for summer 2020).

**Outcome:** During Fall 2019 the Graduate Program Director, Associate Director and CUNY Administrative Assistant had a series of meetings with our Dean, Facilities Planning & Operations, Office of Campus Planning, Design and Construction, and other department representatives related to the renovation and swing space. The meeting primarily focused on possible solutions to the challenges presented by movement to a swing space in Kissena Hall, 3rd floor for the Speech-Language Hearing Center’s in-house public clinic. Recommendations for consideration were use of the current ELL office on the 1st floor, provision of parking for clients under the building, safer drop off – pick up area, and completion of planned renovations being made within that building. The Dean will lead the follow-up and walk-through for recommendations. The COVID-19 pandemic closed Queens College and stopped any renovations in early March 2020.

**Sub-Goal for LTP Goal #2 –** Determine outcome for actions taken in goal #2 during 2018-19 to develop additional skill development for student’s going into adult graduate externships in hospitals and rehabilitation centers.
Outcome: Externship supervisors in hospitals and rehabilitation centers unanimously agreed that the 2-3 day period of observation and orientation activities and additional training in LCD 729 II (e.g. grand round presentations, workshops related to client documentation systems and billing) provided students with increased skills coming to their externships. They were able to start supervised treatment and assessment much earlier and acquired a more robust hands-on training time by the end of that externship. Our new requirement that graduate students going into externships with a strong focus on dysphagia compete the MBS-Imp protocol prior to that externship has reaped several benefits for students. This includes entrance to more competitive hospital sites, more active participation from the beginning of the externship in MBS assessment (now in 10 days vs. approximately 3 weeks of training) and more confidence and independence in reading MBS studies.

Sub-Goal for LTP Goal #3 – Participation in development and submission of a CUNY 2020 grant with the Provosts of Queens, Lehman and Brooklyn College to develop: a) expanded learning opportunities for graduate students in speech-language pathology and audiology through simulation, expanded inter-disciplinary experiences and new specialty clinical services; and, b) enhanced opportunities for people in the community with communication disorders and their families/ caregivers to receive greater information and treatment opportunities.

Outcome: See attachment for objectives and proposed projects. Project was not given ‘the go ahead’.

Sub-Goal for LTP Goal #4 – Utilize contemporary technologies to move program information and student outcomes from hard copies/ paper to digital format and storage with appropriate encryption.

Outcome: CUNY Chairs, Graduate Program Directors and Clinical Coordinators met together as a group and decided to move forward asking CUNY for permission and support to use digital, encrypted programs that are available to document clinical and academic assessments and outcomes (e.g. Calipso system). Each program will make a decision with their college admissions administration whether to utilize the computerized graduate admissions system of the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CAPCSD) and to start when. The CUNY Allied-Health Chief Administrator is actively working with the group on permission and financing for these program efficient systems.
The following objectives will be realized:

1. **Creation of a simulation lab** to prepare speech-language pathology students and speech-language pathologists for cutting-edge practices in the assessment and treatment of adults and children in various medical settings. This training would increase both student externship and professional marketability for key positions.
   - Experienced consultant
   - Equipped hospital room with manikin
   - Electronic health record training software for students
   - Video/computer equipment
   - Minimum of ___ lab space with an observation room

2. **Development of a technology-equipped, multi-purpose area/room with Webcast/Webcam set-up.** This system would enable:
   - Development of a strong, inter-professional education and practice curriculum for students in speech-language pathology in conjunction with other disciplines/programs at QC (e.g. education, nutrition, psychology, neuro-cognition, TESOL) or within CUNY. This curriculum would provide graduates a huge ‘edge’ in entering the workforce in both education and medical settings
   - Increased collaboration and communication across CUNY between speech-language pathology programs (e.g. lectures/invited speaker for seminars)
   - Continuing education programs through contemporary technical venues in addition to face to face seminars to increase knowledge & skills for practicing speech-language pathologists in Queens & across CUNY
   - Alternate venue to provide information and assistance to families and caregivers of children and adults with communication disorders in the community in English and other predominant languages spoken in Queens
   - Increased communication with externship supervisors and sites

These activities would provide increased academic and clinical knowledge for the workforce in the Queens community & NYC and much needed assistance to underserved populations and families speaking English and other primary languages in the surrounding community.

- Space
- IT Consultant & Technology/software
- Experienced technician
3. **Addition of three specialty labs needed for graduate student training**
   - **Speech disorders – Adults with Parkinson’s Disease**
     - **Space**
     - **Training software (students)**
     - **5 iPADs for client feedback, microphones, sound meters**
   
   - **Swallowing disorders – Adults/children**
     - **Space**
     - **Specialty equipment**
   
   - **Dementia and other neurological/cognitive disorders – Adolescents/adults**
     - **Space**
     - **Standardized assessments**

4. **Development of two advanced certificate programs** to bring additional people into the workforce
   - **Post-BA Certificate** – for career changers wanting to become speech-language pathologists
   
   - **Advanced Autism Spectrum Certificate** – for speech-language pathology graduates who want to acquire a specialization and leadership role in working with children with autism spectrum disorders in clinical and educational settings

5. **HIPAA compliant video system to capture and store** student supervised assessment and treatment sessions for self-review, de-briefing discussions and faculty mentorship for graduate students in speech-language pathology
   - **Consultant**
   - **AV**
   - **HIPAA storage/retrieval/review system**

6. **On-going development of further connections with medical and educational settings** to achieve excellent graduate and undergraduate training and hire with high-caliber and prestigious institutions

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