

CHHS State of the College Address Jan. 20, 2006

We recently brought to a close a truly outstanding year for the College of Health and Human Services. The successes of 2005 were largely built on the hard work and achievements of you in this room, as well as your colleagues.

But as good as last year was to us – and I'll recap that in a few minutes – 2006 promises to be even better.

In his book "Good to Great," author Jim Collins compares a successfully managed company to a bus headed in the right direction, with the right people occupying the right seats.

I hope you and Mr. Collins will forgive me for borrowing a bit from this transportation analogy to talk about CHHS and where I think it's going. Instead of a bus, I see the College more as a rail car. We're linked to dozens of others on the same Ohio University train. And we're about to leave the station, you might say, as the University puts Vision Ohio into place. I and many of my colleagues around campus – and hopefully you, too – believe this strategic plan will put us on track to be an institution of even more profound distinction and excellence.

My goal is to make sure CHHS is the lead car. By many measures, I think we already lead the way.

Our College's vision and mission statements spell it out. These were drafted during the fall as part of the overall Vision Ohio plan, with input of each of your units. They read as follows:

Vision: "The College will be a national leader in the preparation of health and human service professionals and scholars. Such leadership will be distinguished by its interdisciplinary emphases and roles in defining state-of-the-art practices, enriching our communities through model outreach activities, and advancing scholarship that informs policy and practice.

Mission: "The College faculty and staff engage in research and creative activities that contribute to the development, interpretation, and application of new knowledge within professional disciplines and enhance the educational experiences of our students. We value student learning and inquiry through rigorous curricular and co-curricular activities that prepare them to assume leadership roles as professionals in a competitive, diverse and global environment. The College's outreach activities enhance the campus experience, extend the boundaries of the University and enrich quality of life, especially for those in need, through collaborations among faculty, administrators, staff, students and alumni. "

Many of you are still helping to draft your unit's specific and measurable goals, which will reflect and operationalize the College's and University's final Vision OHIO blueprint. But at this point we know the broad strokes of the University's overall plan. In a nutshell, it seeks to enhance national prominence and to promote diversity, partnerships and research. Its aim is to enhance Ohio University's ability to engage students in distinctive and interdisciplinary activities that serve the educational, societal and economic needs of the region, state, nation and world.

To accomplish these aims, Vision Ohio proposes a series of specific goals. These include strengthening undergraduate education, optimizing resources, building diversity, supporting outreach and partnership efforts, and investing selectively in graduate education and research.

At CHHS, our faculty and programs have been fulfilling these goals for a long time, and we'll continue to do so as the strategic plan moves forward. We strengthen all of these elements---undergraduate and graduate education and research, outreach, building diversity, etc. – by focusing or contextualizing many of our activities within selected thematic areas. Such areas include technological applications to populations with disabilities (including the deaf, those with back pain, those with temporomandibular joint dysfunction, and those needing augmentative communication devices), risk and resiliency in children and their families, diabetes and related conditions, health and wellness in underserved populations (including Appalachia and Africa).

Under the heading of strengthening undergraduate education, we have a host of accredited and endorsed programs, including dietetics, family and consumer sciences, environmental health, industrial hygiene, nursing, interior architecture, early childhood education, recreation studies, exercise physiology, athletic training, and sports management. And we'll seek other accreditations as appropriate in programs such as community health and health services administration.

Our honors program in the School of Human and Consumer Sciences, now in its third year, has mentored 10 students who have won University research awards and presented projects internationally.

The College has supported selective admissions in a number of high-demand majors to better ensure student success and to balance enrollment with resources and market demand.

The College's enrollment is strong – perhaps too strong. Counting the 230 RN-BSN students who now roll up to Regional Higher Education, the College has about 3,150 majors. We continue to address over-enrollments and under-enrollments. The RN-BSN program has increased from 97 majors to 230 majors in just two years, thanks to the aggressive marketing and recruitment efforts of

Esperanza Joyce and her faculty and staff. Majors in our School of Health Sciences, specifically environmental health, industrial hygiene, and health services administration, have made significant and necessary gains over the past few years thanks to the diligent recruiting efforts of the School's faculty. And we are trying to right-size enrollment in early childhood education and sports management and some other very high-enrollment majors. We will be adding faculty, that's right – ADDING – to better meet instructor needs in high-demand areas, address faculty load issues and enhance program quality.

We still have a ways to go, but there has been significant teaching load relief over the past several years. Where the norm was 3-3-3 teaching loads in many units, that has been reduced appreciably. We'll continue to work to keep teaching loads at a level conducive to active scholarly career development.

We continue to maintain a synergy with Campus Recreation to provide our majors with high-quality, relevant experiences and to access the expertise of recreation professionals. This collaboration offers clear benefits for our students majoring in exercise physiology, recreation management, athletic training and coaching education.

These are just a few examples – there are many more. Now I want to move on to the topic of optimizing resources, another goal of Vision Ohio.

Earlier this week when President McDavis addressed our faculty and staff, one of the items he stressed was for both our College and the University to become more self-reliant. CHHS is already on board.

In fiscal 2005, we as a College secured 9 percent more funding from grants and other external funding than the year before. And this total of nearly \$3.3 million represented a 25 percent gain over 2003. Compared with 2002, the increase is even more impressive: 127 percent.

We also received generous philanthropic gifts last year: The Carole Jean Marchal Scholarship Fund was endowed with a gift from the Marchal family to support students planning careers in pediatric physical therapy; Jeph and Zoe Martin funded a scholarship that will help deserving hockey players; OHIO alumni Ellen and Phil Goldsberry endowed a scholarship in Human and Consumer Sciences that may also be used to support the Retail Merchandising Program; OHIO alumnus Jeremy Foley provided an endowment to honor his father that will go to an outstanding MBA/MSA student each year; and, once again, Bank One supported the Kids on Campus summer program with a \$90,000 gift.

The University is helping us become more self-reliant as well by providing seed money to hire a grant writer for a two-year period -- hopefully longer. In addition, we will have monies to invest in the development of marketable academic modules, such as online certificate and degree programs. This will

underwrite the professional development of these modules, and the faculty contributions. We will have on-campus consultants to help us with foundation grants, health research grants, and grants in the humanities and social sciences. We will have support to underwrite faculty efforts to develop training grant applications. Finally, we will have on-campus consultancies to help our faculty with commercial applications of their research.

We also optimized our space inside Grover by conducting a study that identified space for more offices and research labs. Within a year, we will have created up to eight new labs in Grover and office space for about 10 additional faculty and staff members.

On the budgeting side, we carefully monitored College spending and used carry-forward monies to pay for these space renovations, as well as having funds to support faculty development and professional enhancement opportunities, providing additional support for faculty research and extramural efforts, and buying more than \$200,000 in new equipment.

In the area of building diversity, I'm very proud of our hiring of directors and several recent faculty members. Bringing aboard folks like Matthew Adeyanju, Esperanza Joyce, Brooke Hollowell and Ming Li has not only enabled us to hire extremely talented leaders, it enables the College to reflect significant diversity in its leadership. Look around you – the diversity of our College increasingly reflects the diversity of the world!

We have drawn on the African Studies Program as a resource in hiring faculty, and we recently hired a community health scholar with an African perspective to intensify our efforts there.

The College actively supports a diversity in sports initiative, the annual Sports in Africa Conference, and the annual Institute for the African Child Conference.

This spring, visiting professor Prisca Nemapare, a nutrition professor and former CHHS faculty member, will be sharing her experiences about nutritional and health issues in Zimbabwe. And Rec and Sports is currently hosting visiting professor Hazuhiko Kimura from Japan's Waseda University in a first step toward what we hope will be a formalized student-faculty exchange with that prestigious institution.

We continue to pursue our collaboration with Beijing Sports University to offer the MSA degree in China. At present, we face a barrier of English language proficiency requirements for entering students. However, I am committed to mitigating this barrier so that Ohio University can assume a leadership role in ensuring that American universities are the primary institutions delivering a quality education on the world stage while maintaining stringent quality controls.

I'm proud of the strides our college has made in this area. We are internationalizing our curricula, and we truly have one of the most diverse staffs on campus, from the ranks of school directors on down.

Another Vision Ohio goal is supporting outreach and partnership efforts. This is an area where we really shine.

Last year, our interdisciplinary clinic, Ohio University Therapy Associates, logged more than 5,000 clinic visits in Grover Center. In addition, the physical therapy side had nearly 13,000 visits at its O'Bleness operation. The speech/language pathology and audiology side increased its number of Grover visits by 40 percent over the previous year, and has added four new off-campus contract sites while maintaining the same number of clinical supervisors. And HeartWorks serves as Athens County's only cardiac-rehabilitation unit.

Add all that up and it's a lot of first-class health care for a community that sorely needs it.

More than a dozen faculty members were actively involved last year in The Appalachian Rural Health Institute and Diabetes Research Institute, interdisciplinary endeavors that work to improve the health and related quality of life in the region.

Kids on Campus completed its 10th year of summer programming last summer with a group of 325 children, most of whom qualified for free or reduced-price school lunches. Half the children who attended gained an entire grade level on their reading skills.

Our service-learning activities for students are also plentiful. Members of the Student Advisory Council last year helped with an American Red Cross blood drive, and they bought and prepared food for Good Works, an organization that helps the homeless. The student-based Respite Volunteer Program in the School of Hearing, Speech and Language Sciences offers in-home relief for caregivers in the area. There many more examples too numerous to mention here.

Under the Vision Ohio goal of investing selectively in graduate education and research, we have accredited programs in speech-language pathology, audiology, physical therapy and public health. And we'll seek accreditation for our nursing master's program.

Last year, we launched the Center for Sports Administration, which is headed by Jim Kahler. The Center will capitalize on its national reputation as the leader in this field to conduct research and serve the industry.

This year, we hope to begin collaborating with our colleagues across campus in developing a Ph.D. program in biomechanics, which will provide an

important avenue for program development and research activities for faculty in physical therapy, athletic training and other areas.

Health Sciences has developed a master's in public health and a health care administration certificate, which targets working health professionals. Next fall, the school plans to start cohorts on the regional campuses for its master's of health administration program. And it's developing a graduate certificate program in African community health that will involve interdisciplinary elements such as African studies and communication.

The online master's program in athletic administration graduated its first cohort of 10 students in June 2005. And we're developing a Web-based master's program in nursing to complement the highly successful RN-BSN on-line program.

And finally, both our individual and collective endeavors have brought distinction to the College of Health and Human Services. While it is convenient to talk about "college achievements", the achievements are really due to the fact that we are blessed with a talented group of hard-working, accomplished faculty and staff. Truly, we already have many "right people" in the "right seats" in our train car!

Brooke Hollowell, Jim Thomas, Darlene Berryman, Sharon Denham and Li Xu secured prestigious federal grants last year. Many more faculty members have submitted very competitive applications and are honing their resubmissions in ways to be future grant recipients.

Our students and faculty have showcased their research through annual poster symposia at Grover and the Convocation Center, not to mention numerous state, national, and international presentations and publications.

Through the Teaching/Learning Colloquium, ably lead this year by David Holben, the College has focused on achieving excellence in teaching.

A number of you wrote or edited books and chapters last year that showcase your expertise. Included on this list are David Holben, Li Xu, Brooke Hollowell, Ann Paulins, Sharon Denham, Michele Morrone, Esperanza Joyce and Greg Janson. One of Ming Li's textbooks was translated into Chinese last year as well. And I'm sure I've missed one or two.

Through my membership in the Santa Fe Dean's Group, the College shares some fairly elite company with other research-intensive HHS units around the country, including our sister units at Pitt, the University of Florida, the University of Missouri, the University of Illinois-Chicago and the University of North Carolina.

Many of you are officers in important state and national organizations, positions that establish us as a source of national leadership. Here are a few –

and by no means is this an exhaustive list: Terrence Brown, who was elected national treasurer last year of NAMME, the National Association of Medical Minority Educators; Sharon Denham, who was elected to the Board of Commissioners of the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission; Esperanza Joyce, who was appointed by the U.S. Department of Commerce to the 2005 Board of Examiners of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award; Davida Parsons, elected vice chair of the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology; Janice Wright, elected executive director of the National Black Association for Speech, Language and Hearing; Francie Astrom, who served as secretary of Mid-Ohio Valley Dietetic Association and board member of the Association for Size Diversity and Health; Darlene Berryman, who served as treasurer of the Mid-Ohio Valley Dietetic Association; Annette Graham, who served as vice president of the Ohio Council on Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Education; David Holben, who served as chairman of the Ohio Board of Dietetics and on various committees of the American Dietetic Association; Ann Paulins, who is president-elect of the Ohio Association of Family and Consumer Sciences; Tim Ryan, who served on a committee with the American Industrial Hygiene Association. And I serve on the board of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, lead a National Group called NAPRAH, the National Alliance Promoting Research in Allied Health, and serve as president of the Organization for Health Improvement in Appalachia.

One final measure of our distinction is the astounding array of honors that you and your students have earned. These range from College-wide to University-wide; from state to national to international; from organizational to editorial. You name it and we've won it. If I tried to list them all, we'd be here the rest of the day. So I'll let you read about them in a couple of weeks when the winter issue of ATRIUM magazine hits your mailbox. The rejuvenated CHHS magazine is one of the ways we'll be chronicling our journey toward distinction.

If you're not convinced by now that we've earned our place as the lead car on the train, consider this: In a time of budget constraints, CHHS has been given approval to bring aboard at least three new faculty members to help us meet our goals. Once again we'll focus on getting the right people aboard our car in the right seats.

We are truly heading in the right direction, but we couldn't have accomplished any of this without the great work of the many people who work behind the scenes---our administrative and classified staff who work in the Dean's Office, in the schools, and in our other units. Please stand and enjoy a well-deserved round of applause.

We as a college are well-positioned to benefit from Vision Ohio as it moves the University forward. I look forward to taking this journey with you.