

HEALTHCARE PROGRAM EXPANSION



NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

September 1, 2009

Healthcare Program Expansion

Health Care Program Expansion directly supports Arizona Board of Regents initiatives for health workforce planning. In addition, Northern Arizona University's request responds to the Joint Conference Committee (JCC) recommendations to provide convenient, affordable access to baccalaureate education throughout the state. These programs complement the professional medical / health program degrees offered by UA, ASU, and in the new College of Medicine in Phoenix. The North Phoenix building, just off I-17 has consolidated all of NAU's current operations in Maricopa County and provides a place to implement the Health Care Program Expansion plan.

This is the third year of implementation of health care expansion initiatives. The national economic situation in general, and the reduction in TRIF funding in particular has forced us to carefully consider the viability of each programs. As a consequence, we will be reducing support of some programs and concentrating our diminished resources in those areas providing the most benefit for the investment.

The goal of this TRIF Strategic Initiative has been to expand access to and availability of *existing* health care programs in Arizona through a three-pronged approach:

1. Enhance existing programs at Flagstaff where it results in increases in the number of health care professionals,
2. Make existing programs directly available in metropolitan and rural areas of Arizona to increase the number of health care professionals,
3. Increase the availability of degree completion programs for students receiving technical health care degrees from community colleges.

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School of Nursing

STRATEGIES AND GOALS

Here we review progress and lessons learned over the past three years:

STRATEGY 1: Enhance existing programs at Flagstaff where it results in increases in the number of health care professionals.

Goal #1: Increase capacity in the Flagstaff-based entry-level Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program

For FY 2006, the current entry-level Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) program admitted cohort of 40 students annually. For FY08, through the use of expansion dollars to hire an additional faculty member, a cohort of 48 was admitted — a 25% increase. The program continues to admit this larger cohort.

Goal #2: Implement a health sciences degree completion program for students with Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degrees in technical health care areas.

Northern Arizona University first AAS degree completion program was with Gateway Community College's Diagnostic Medical Imaging Training program. Building on planning done with the help of an ARRO grant and using dollars from this initiative to hire an additional faculty and an additional staff member, NAU now has partnerships offering an on-line AAS-to-BS degree in Respiratory Care, Physical Therapy Assisting, Surgical Technology, Paramedic Care and Medical Assisting. The number of students eligible to enroll in these programs has increased by 33% (to over 200) in the past year, and we are starting to see program graduates.

Goal #3: Expand the existing master's degree in clinical speech pathology.

Speech Pathologists continue to be in demand throughout Arizona. In FY 2007, Northern Arizona University hired a clinic director and an additional faculty member. NAU also configured courses specifically to allow a 7-person cohort of students in NAU-Yuma to complete the prerequisites needed to enroll in the master's degree. All of these students have now enrolled in the program. The university has invested in additional faculty for the Master's program. All of these changes have led to the recent re-accreditation of the program.

Goal #4: Increase capacity in the Flagstaff-based Athletic Training program

In FY 2007, Northern Arizona University hired one full-time faculty member, and has expanded the bachelor's-level program in Athletic Training from 16 students annually, to 24 students in Fall, 2007. Given the solid base of faculty and facilities currently available on the Flagstaff campus, this is the most economical way to produce additional athletic trainers.

STRATEGY 2: Make existing programs directly available in metropolitan and rural areas of Arizona to increase the number of health care professionals in these areas.

Goal #1: Relocate the existing Post-Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy Program to Phoenix.

The Post-Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, located in NAU's North Phoenix facility, is a 36 credit hour program that enable licensed professionals to attain doctoral status. This program has shown limited growth, and will be given a few more years to achieve stability. One side benefit of having the program in Phoenix is in the growth in the availability of Valley-based internships for Flagstaff students, sparked by having a faculty member on the ground.

Goal #2: Expand the existing Dental Hygiene completion program to include either a hybrid or face-to-face cohort program in Phoenix.

The "on-the-ground" BSDH completion program has attracted over twenty students, but is not producing the kind of returns that warrant program continuation. The program will be discontinued after the current cohort has completed, but the on-line completion program remains available.

STRATEGIES AND GOALS

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Goal #3: Expand the existing nursing cohort in Tucson and establish a new cohort-based program in partnership with the Yuma Regional Medical Center.

Investment in the nursing program in Tucson has paid big dividends — the program is filled to capacity, and admits 40 students per year. The program has been relocated to NAU’s North Tucson facility which consolidates all faculty, classroom and clinical facilities in a single place. TRIF TSI funds have enabled significant renovation of the facilities at the site, and acquisition of simulation equipment which provides an optimal learning experience for Tucson nursing students. Legislative Allied Health funding provides additional support for this program.

In addition, Northern Arizona University’s School of Nursing strategically partnered with Yuma Regional Medical Center to create a four-year nursing bachelor’s program centered at YRMC. Core faculty are being recruited, and the program admits 20 students per year. The first group of students from this program will graduate in May, 2010.

These programs complement the university’s successful nursing satellite programs on the Navajo reservation. Enrollment in the BSN program at statewide locations has nearly quintupled (to approximately 200) since Fall, 2006.

Resources from the Health care program initiative carryforward balance are also being used to sustain TRIF Access Workforce Development programs in nursing which would otherwise have been curtailed due to revenue shortfalls.

By achieving these goals,
Northern Arizona University will:

- allow more students to participate in an affordable, public-university based program,
- enhance the education they will receive, and
- expand the number of health care professionals in the Arizona workforce



Athletic Training and Education Program

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

METRICS	FY 02 Act	FY 03 Act	FY 04 Act	FY 05 Act	FY 06 Act	FY 07 Proj	FY 07 Act	FY 08 Proj	FY 08 Act	FY 09 Proj	FY 09 Act	FY 10 Proj	FY 11 Proj
Program Enrollments								104	205	168	420	228	238
Degree Awards									71	123	64	166	186

Funding of the Arizona Board of Regents’ Technology and Research Initiative Fund (TRIF) is provided by a 0.6 percent increase in the Arizona sales tax rate approved by the voters through Proposition 301 on the November 2000 general election ballot.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Rev Budget	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Rev Budget	FY 2011 Rev Budget
REVENUE								
Carry Forward	\$0	\$0	\$1,149,999	\$2,128,040	\$2,099,386	\$2,099,386	\$1,278,118	\$0
New TRIF Revenue	\$0	\$1,149,999	\$1,010,206	\$936,398	\$818,043	\$826,263	\$773,875	\$772,474
TOTAL REVENUE	\$0	\$1,149,999	\$2,160,205	\$3,064,438	\$2,917,429	\$2,925,649	\$2,051,993	\$772,474
OPERATING BUDGET								
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$659,318	\$1,994,664	\$1,305,631	\$855,600	\$336,005
Operating	\$0	\$0	\$32,165	\$305,734	\$922,765	\$341,900	\$1,196,393	\$436,469
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$0	\$0	\$32,165	\$965,052	\$2,917,429	\$1,647,531	\$2,051,993	\$772,474



Communication Sciences and Disorders

With an Executive Dean in place since January, 2008 and a new Dean of Nursing in place, the College of Health and Human Services is prepared to move forward in health care education.. ABOR's funds for expanding existing health care programs, the state legislature's allocation for new programming and the SPEED and TRIF dollars that will be used to build a new Health Professions facility on the Flagstaff campus are all facilitating progress.

Northern Arizona University is prepared to bring up new programs at the North Phoenix facility while waiting for the Phoenix Medical Center complex to come to fruition. Faculty are in place and students are enrolling. A new biomedical sciences program in the Department of Biological Sciences, complementing these efforts, attracted over 100 students in AY2009..

LEARN MORE

For on-campus programs, contact Leslie Schulz, Executive Dean, College of Health & Human Services at 928.523.4331.

For off-campus programs, contact Fred Hurst, Vice President for Distance Learning Initiatives at 928.523.4212.

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