

Spring Convocation
April 25, 2025

College of Allied Health Sciences

Dean Bob Orlikoff

Future focused. Innovation driven.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2023–2028

ECU Mission Priority 1

Student Success

*We offer **transformative experiences** for all students during their time at ECU and beyond*

Objective M1.1

Strengthen graduation and retention strategies to advance opportunity for all

Objective M1.2

Expand access to and participation in transformative experiences and experiential learning

Objective M1.3

Align university programs to meet the demands of a dynamic, innovative economy and an evolving workforce

ECU Vision Priority 1

Social and Economic Mobility

We will be an engine of access and advancement for all learners through innovative teaching, research and creative activities.

Objective V1.1

Increase enrollment and completion rates of underserved populations through a lens of affordability and accessibility

Objective V1.2

Bolster online course and program offerings

Objective V1.3

Expand curricular and noncurricular workforce development programs aimed at workforce upskilling and reskilling

ECU Vision Priority 1

Social and Economic Mobility

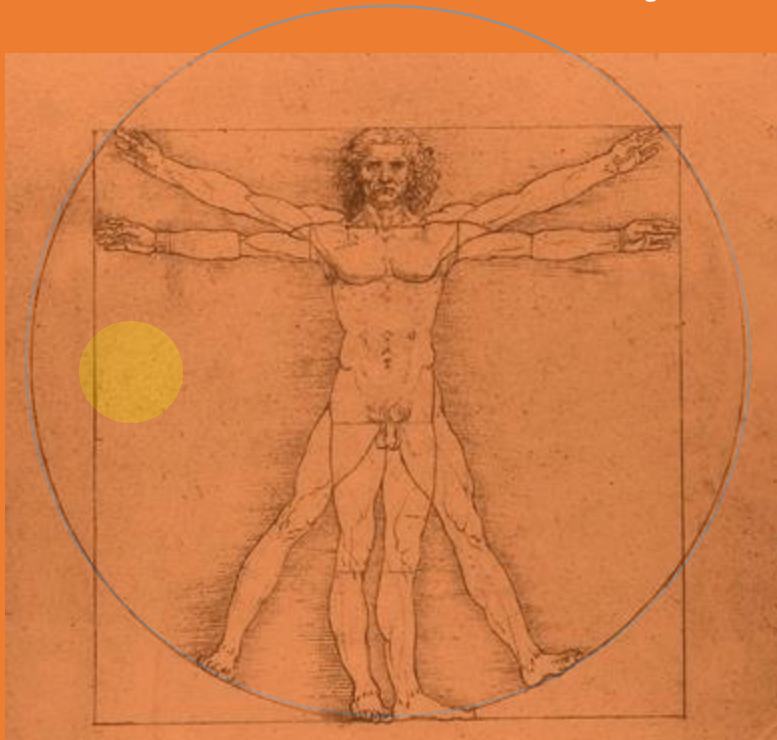
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Objective V1.1

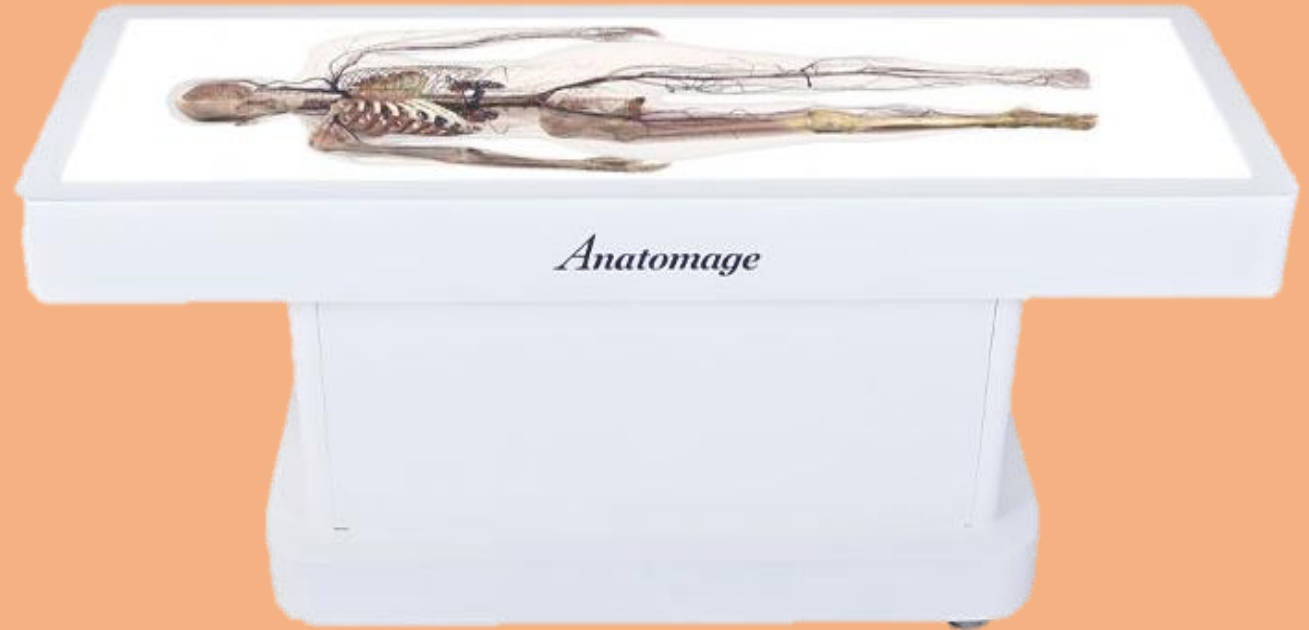
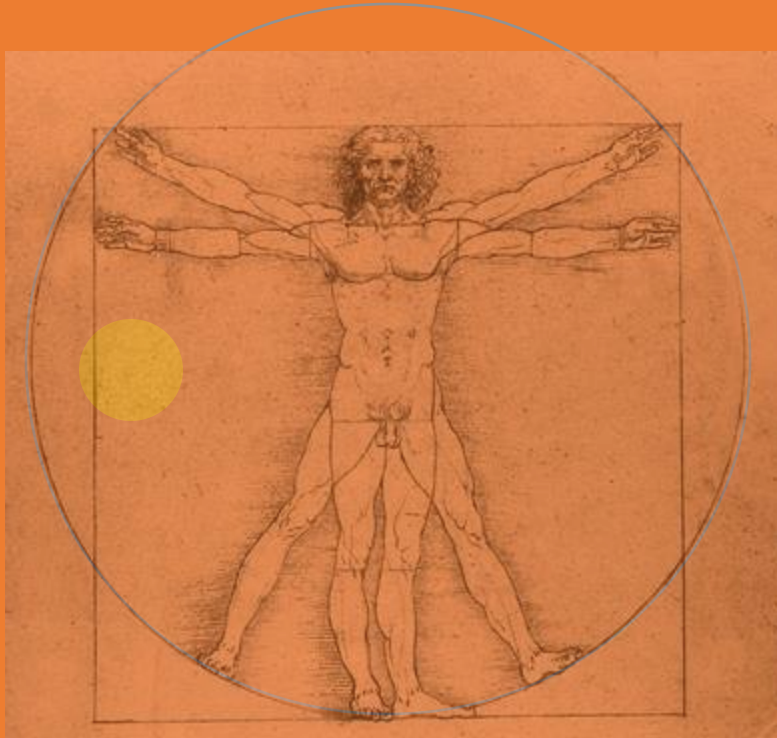
Increase enrollment and completion rates of **underserved populations*** through a lens of affordability and accessibility

**Underserved in this context is defined as rural, first-generation, and within North Carolina, students from Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties*

CAHS Anatomical Sciences Laboratory



CAHS Anatomical Sciences Laboratory



Explore real human anatomy, physiology, and pathology on a life-size platform. It features an 84" multi-touch screen, allowing students to interact with digital human cadavers and integrated medical education tools.

- 87" x 33" x 28" / Weight: 400lbs
- Connects to internet, projectors, and external monitors

CAHS Upgrades



CAHS Upgrades



Future Healthcare Executives Club supports 'Administrative Professionals Week'





Leigh W. Cellucci, PhD, MBA
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs



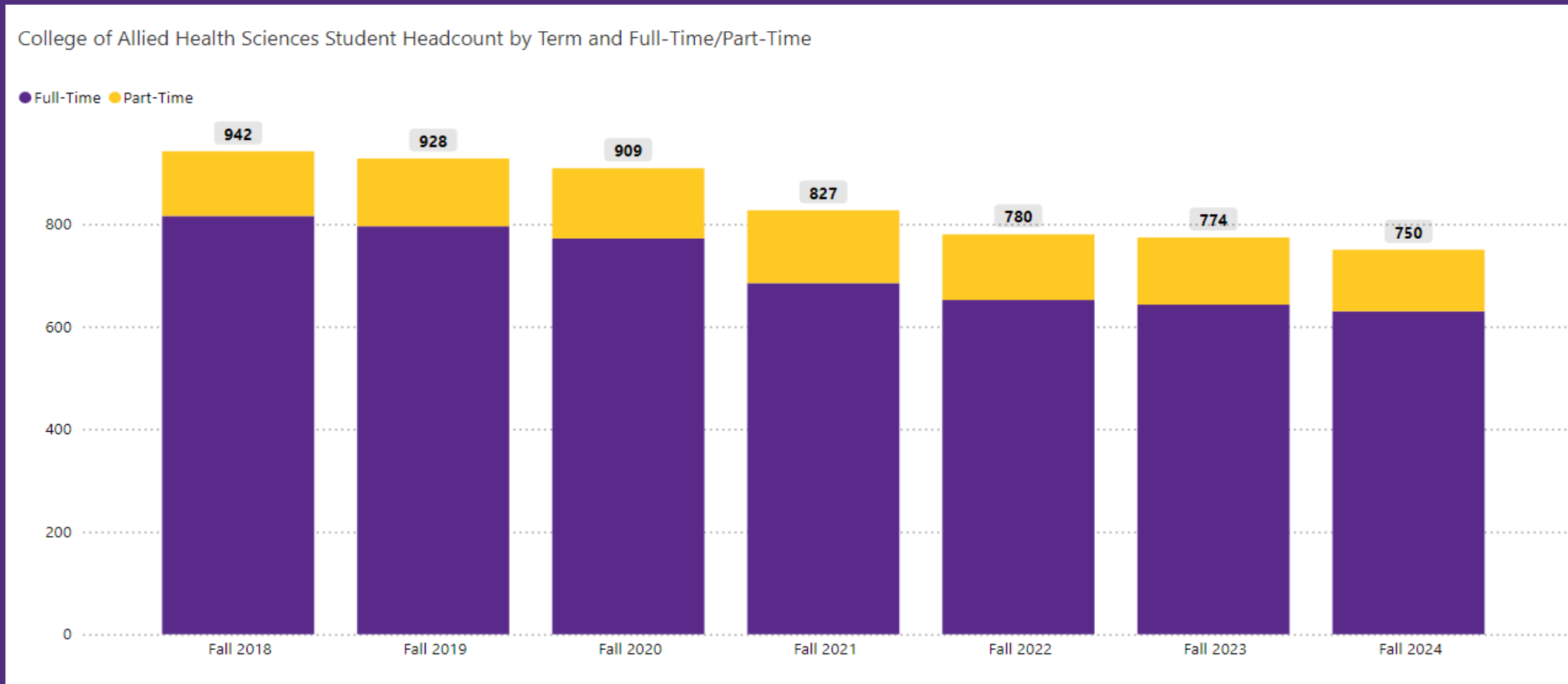
Effortful Persistence



- Better known as Grit
- Perseverance toward long-term goals with sustained commitment toward completing that goal despite failure or setbacks.
- High levels of Grit correlated with success
- Rindfleisch, A., S. Barnes, H. Craig, C. Zelbelian, J. Hollman (2023) "The Self-Perceived Effortful Persistence of Students in Doctor of Physical Therapy Programs." *Journal of Allied Health*. 52(1): 44-50.

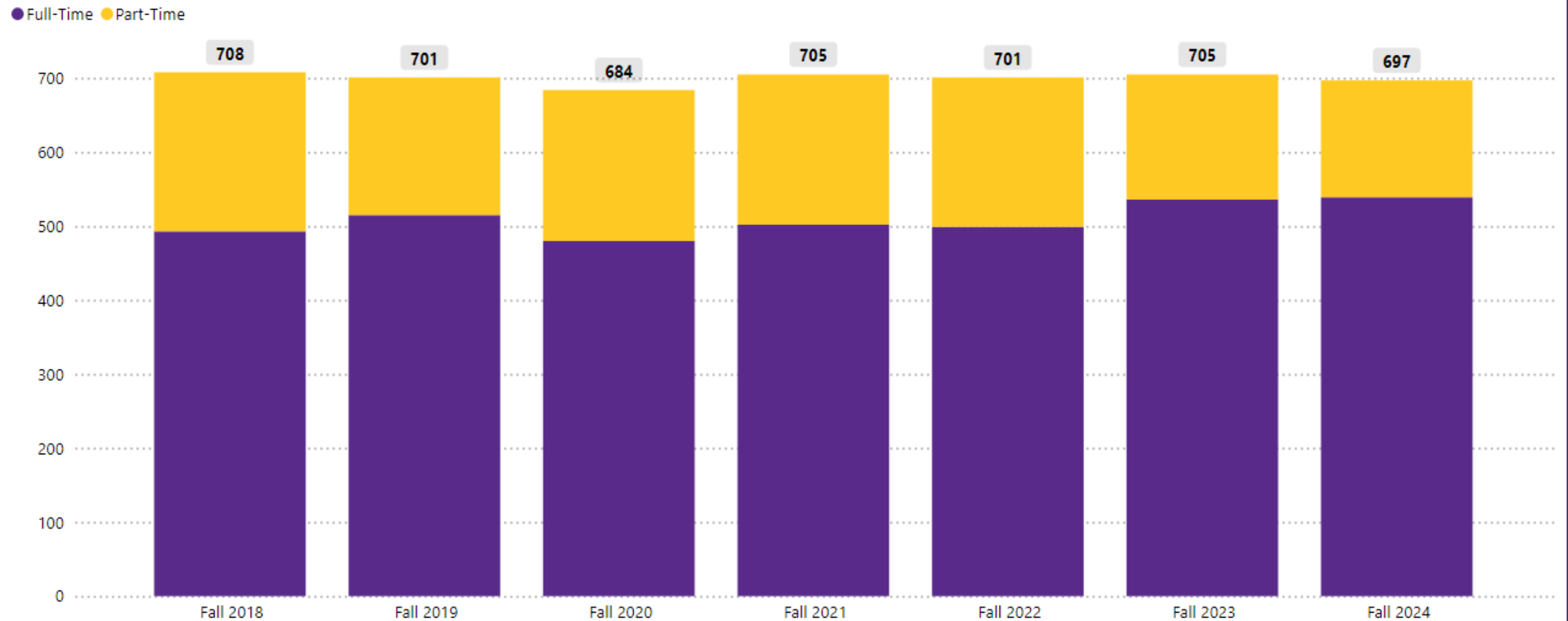
Undergraduate Students...

All programs



Graduate Students....All programs

College of Allied Health Sciences Student Headcount by Term and Full-Time/Part-Time



We Teach:





We Teach and Serve

- Class and Bringing Healthy Options to our Campus

- MUSC Case Competition

HSM Team
Professors Elijah
Asagbra and Kayla
Flynn

We Lead

- Scholarship Luncheon
Suzanne Pecheles (donor) and
Megan Mynster (CSDI)



Interprofessional Education and Practice

“IPE is one the most impactful experiences I have had at ECU. We work with students from other programs and learn how to do so well.”
HSIM student 2025



Pirates Study Abroad

- 2024 Provided study abroad for cultural perspectives in counseling for 12 graduate students in London and Paris (Leigh Atherton)
- 2025 Provided speech-language screenings, evaluations and therapy for children and adults. Seven undergraduate and three graduate students participated from CSDI (Krystal Lineberger and Sherri Winslow)

We Build Relationships

Pirates Aboard



Effortful Persistence



A small green seedling with several leaves is growing out of a crack in a dark, textured rock surface. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

GRIT

- Grit—perseverance toward long-term goals with sustained commitment toward completing that goal despite failure or setbacks.
- High levels of Grit correlated with academic success
- Effortful persistence

College of Allied Health Sciences

Office of Research

Moving to R1- Impact to CAHS

What is R1 status? Highest level of research activity among institutions of higher education as determined by Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education

2025 Carnegie Research Designations

Research 1: Very High Research Spending and Doctorate Production

- Spent at least **\$50 million** in total R&D in a year, as reported to the NSF HERD Survey
- AND
- Awarded at least **70 research/scholarship doctorates** in a year, as reported to IPEDS

Research 2: High Research Spending and Doctorate Production

- Spent at least **\$5 million** in total R&D in a year, as reported to the NSF HERD Survey
- AND
- Awarded at least **20 research/scholarship doctorates** in a year, as reported to IPEDS

Research Colleges and Universities

- Spent at least **\$2.5 million** in total R&D in a year, as reported to the NSF HERD Survey
- *Does not include institutions designated R1 or R2*

For the 2025 classifications, institutions will receive the higher of either:

- Three-year average (2021, 2022, 2023)
- Most recent single year (2023)

ECU in 2023

\$67,082,000 All R&D Expenditures
(ranked 202)

- Federal govt = \$30,851,000
- State & local govt = \$371,000
- Institutional funds = \$28,495,000
(institutionally financed research)
- Business = \$4,648,000
- Nonprofit org = \$2,267,000
- Other = \$450,000

77 research/scholarship doctorates

What is an R1 Culture?



HIGH VOLUME OF
RESEARCH “ACTIVITY”



PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE
IN RESEARCH & CREATIVE
ACTIVITIES



INTERDISCIPLINARY
COLLABORATION TO
SOLVE COMPLEX
PROBLEMS



FOCUS ON GRADUATE
AND POSTDOC FOR
RESEARCH, MENTORING,
AND CAREER
DEVELOPMENT



FUNDING & GRANTS



VISIBLE IMPACT AND
OUTREACH



INTERNATIONAL
COLLABORATION



COMMUNICATING
“SOCIETAL IMPACT”
RATHER THAN
“EXPENDITURE METRICS”



Research Activity



Interdisciplinary Collaboration to solve complex Problems

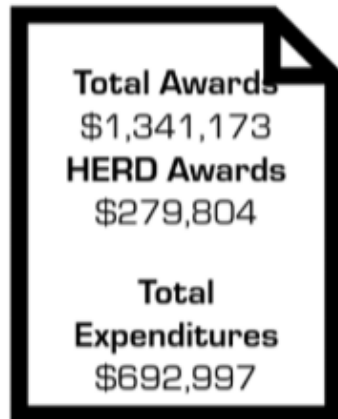


Taylor Snodgrass
NIH F31
Predoctoral Award

9TH ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH DAY

COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

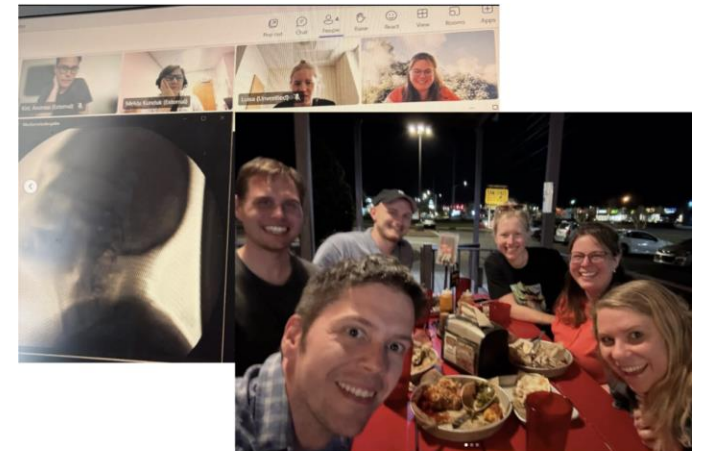
Focus on student research,
mentoring & career development



Funding & Grants

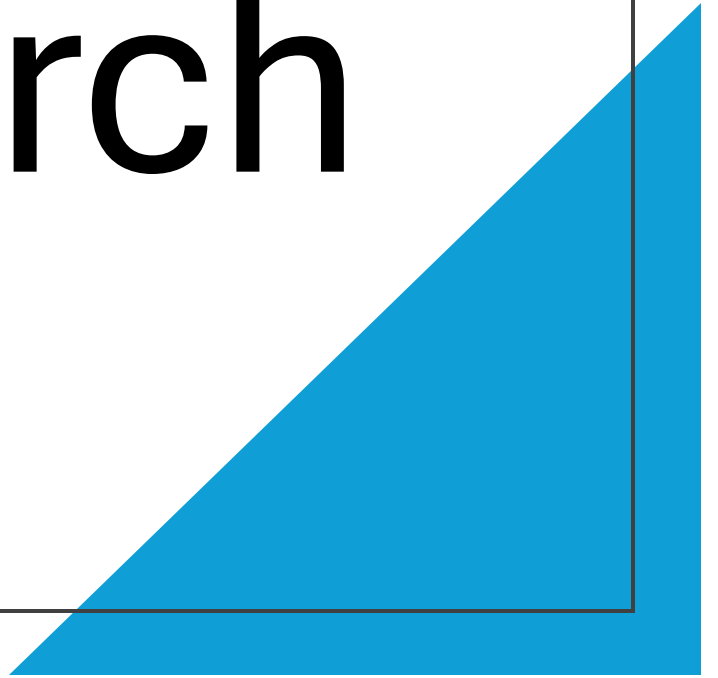


Visible impact & outreach



International Collaboration

The Impact of CAHS Research



ADVANCE PRECISION
REHABILITATION BY PERSONALIZING
INTENSIVE, EVIDENCE-BASED
THERAPIES TO IMPROVE
MOTOR OUTCOMES
IN CHILDREN WITH
NEUROMOTOR DISORDERS
~ **DR. SURKAR (PTHE)**

IDENTIFY BIOMECHANICAL RISK FACTORS TO
PREVENT INJURY, SUPPORT SAFER
TRAINING AND REHAB,
AND KEEP PEOPLE ACTIVE—WHILE
ADVANCING CLINICIAN EDUCATION AND
HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
~ **DR. MEARDON (PTHE)**

ENHANCE COMMUNITY MOBILITY
AND DRIVING SKILLS IN
TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH
AUTISM, PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE
AND QUALITY OF LIFE.
~ **DR. DICKERSON (OCCT)**

ADVANCE UNDERSTANDING
OF BRAIN CONTROL OF BALANCE
TO DEVELOP BETTER FALL
PREVENTION STRATEGIES
AND IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE
FOR OLDER ADULTS.
~ **DR. LIN (PTHE)**

DEVELOP REHAB
PROGRAMS TO ENHANCE
MOBILITY AND REDUCE
FALL RISK FOR INDIVIDUALS
USING LOWER LIMB PROSTHETICS.
~ **DR. WEDGE (PTHE)**

Mobility, Balance, and Rehabilitation

Keeping people moving, safely and independently

INCREASE ACCESS TO
ADDICTION RECOVERY
RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS
AT HBCUS AND UNDERSERVED
UNIVERSITIES, ADDRESSING
MAJOR TREATMENT DISPARITIES..
~ **DR. CLEMMONS-JAMES(DARS)**

EXPAND ACCESS TO
DYSPHAGIA CARE FOR CANCER PATIENTS
THROUGH A STUDENT-LED
CLINIC THAT ALSO ADVANCES CLINICAL
TRAINING AND INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION
~ **DR. LARSEN(CSDI)**

SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS
IN RECOVERY BY EXPANDING
ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE, COMMUNITY-BASED
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES THAT
PROMOTE JOB STABILITY
AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY
~ **DR. ATHERTON (DARS)**

IDENTIFY EFFECTIVE
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES TO MANAGE
CARDIO-METABOLIC
DISEASES THROUGH THE
"FOOD AS MEDICINE"
APPROACH IN HEALTHCARE
~ **DR. SASTRE (NUTR)**

ADDRESS CHRONIC DISEASE IN RURAL
WORKERS BY IDENTIFYING
AND TREATING
UNDIAGNOSED CONDITIONS
LIKE DIABETES AND HYPERTENSION
~ **DR. BURCH (HSIM)**

IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH PARKINSON'S IN EASTERN
NC THROUGH EVIDENCE-BASED,
COMMUNITY-DRIVEN
INTERVENTIONS, EXPANDING ACCESS
TO CARE AND HANDS-ON
LEARNING FOR STUDENTS.
~ **DR. TURBEVILLE (OCCT)**

Expanding Access to Care

*Bringing care closer to
those who need it most*

Pediatric Health & Development

“Driving early detection and treatment strategies to optimize child health outcomes”

PROMOTE MATERNAL
AND INFANT HEALTH THROUGH
PRENATAL EXERCISE INTERVENTIONS
THAT SUPPORT HEALTHY
DEVELOPMENT
~ DR. GROSS MCMILLAN (PTHE)

IMPROVE CLEFT PALATE
SURGICAL OUTCOMES
IN CHILDREN, REDUCING THE
NUMBER OF OPERATIONS
NEEDED FOR NORMAL SPEECH DEVELOPMENT
~ **DR. PERRY(CSDI)**

ENHANCE ELEMENTARY
STUDENTS' COMMUNICATION BY IDENTIFYING
AND IMPROVING HANDWRITING
SKILLS THROUGH TARGETED
ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION.
~ **DR. DONICA (OCCT)**

Innovations in Health Diagnostics, Communication, and Education

*“Advancing care through
smarter tools and deeper
understanding”*

IMPROVE PATIENT-PROVIDER COMMUNICATION
BY STUDYING THE EFFECTS OF
LANGUAGE ADJUSTMENTS
ON TRUST, STRESS, AND
UNDERSTANDING—GUIDING
MORE EQUITABLE HEALTHCARE
~ **DR. ROTHERMICH (CSDI)**

DEVELOP EYE-TRACKING
TOOLS FOR PARKINSON'S
DIAGNOSIS, OFFERING NON-INVASIVE
METHODS FOR EARLIER
DETECTION AND BETTER
TREATMENT PLANNING.
~ **DR. ROTHERMICH (CSDI)**

USE AI TO TRANSFORM
COUNSELING
EDUCATION, ENHANCING
SKILL-BUILDING,
STUDENT CONFIDENCE,
AND REAL-WORLD APPLICATION
~ **DR. CLEMMONS-JAMES (DARS)**

IDENTIFY NEURORESILIENCY
FACTORS TO GUIDE
DEVELOPMENT OF THERAPIES
THAT PREVENT OR TREAT
NEURODEGENERATIVE DISORDERS.
~ **DR. SZATMARI (PTHE)**

ADVANCE COUNSELOR TRAINING
AND MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENTS
BY USING NEUROSCIENCE
TO IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS SOCIAL
BIASES AND TAILOR INTERVENTIONS BASED ON
INDIVIDUAL BRAIN RESPONSES
~ **DR. WEBBER (DARS)**



Summary of Events

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

9:00-9:15am	Welcome and Opening Remarks Matthew Walenski, PhD, CSDI, Chair CAHS Research Committee
9:15-10:15am	Oral Presentations, Session A 202 Health Sciences Student Center
10:30-11:45am	Poster Presentations, Session A Basketball Courts, Health Sciences Student Center
11:45-12:15pm	Lunch Break- on your own
12:15-1:30pm	Poster Presentations, Session B Basketball Courts, Health Sciences Student Center
1:30-2:30pm	Oral Presentations, Session B 202 Health Sciences Student Center
2:30-3:00pm	CAHS Research Day Game Show Denise Donica, DHSc, OCCT, Game Show Host 202 Health Sciences Student Center
3:00-3:30pm	Awards Presentation and Closing Remarks Heather Harris Wright, PhD, Associate Dean for Research 202 Health Sciences Student Center

Graduation

CAHS- 9:00 am

- Health Services and Information Management
- Nutrition Science
- Addiction and Rehabilitation Studies

CAHS – 12 pm

- Clinical Laboratory Science
- Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy

Graduates report to room 249, Main Campus Student Center on Saturday, May 10th.

- The 9:00 am ceremony will report at 8:15 am
- The 12:00 pm ceremony will report at 11:15 am

Communication


- Newsletter
 - Nominate a student, faculty, staff, or alumni to be featured.
- Let me know what is going on so we can tell our story!
 - No story is too small!!!

Alumni

- Working to schedule alumni virtual lunches to connect. If you already work with an alumni group, let me know a good time.
- If you have an alumnus, come to campus, please let me know so I can connect with them.
- Alumni Baseball Tailgate- May 13th
- Information on alumni site or message me.

Contact info

- Mandy Messerli
- Alumni Director
- messerlim@ecu.edu
- 252-744-6171

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- Meeting with ECU Campus Resources
 - Connecting with West Campus Resources
 - Meeting with CAHS Department Leaders
 - Supporting ECU/HSC Wellness and Student Success Events
 - Creating HSC Student Support Programming
 - Student Belonging Activities
 - Academic Skill Information Sharing
 - Student Appointments
-

Melissa Wallace
Senior Academic
Support Specialist

Academic Support & Wellness

Pilates & Popsicles



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH
4:00-4:50PM

Students, staff, & faculty are invited to join us for Pilates & Popsicles outside in the common area between CON & CAHS.

Please bring a yoga mat or beach towel.
If it rains, we will relocate to the CAHS lobby.



Theo

Hosted By:



ECU COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES EVENTS CALENDAR

RESEARCH DAY
HSSC
4/30 9AM-3:30PM

CELEBR8 HSC 8TH BIRTHDAY
HSSC WEST PORCH
4/30 11AM-1PM

STUDY BREAK
LAUPUS LIBRARY
5/1 11AM-2PM

WED 30 PILATES & POPSICLES

Join us for an afternoon of Pilates, Popsicles, and time with Theo the Therapy Pup! This event is open to all students, staff, and faculty of the Health Science Campus. -Outside CAHS from 4-5 PM.

CAHS Lobby 7:30am-9:30am during Exam Week

THU 1 POS(T)-IT-IVITY BOARD

Take or leave encouraging words, quotes, jokes, and pictures on our final exam pos(t)-it-ivity board. Special thanks to our Future Healthcare Executives Student Org for assisting with this project!

FRI 2 GAME ON

Engage in fun activities with options to either take and go or stay and enjoy games, puzzles, and customized CAHS crossword puzzles.

MON 5 HUE GOT THIS

Take a moment to enjoy a coloring break with us, or feel free to grab a sheet and some crayons to go! We will provide ECU coloring pages, uplifting quotes, and an abundance of coloring supplies for everyone.

TUE 6 STRETCH GOALS

You're nearly done! Come join us in the lobby for a brief demonstration of deep breathing, a seated stretching break, and receive sensory stickers to take with you.

WED 7 READY OR KNOT

Today, we will offer both take-and-go and stay-and-linger supplies for creating clay bead bracelets.



Upcoming Events



ECU COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY DOWDY-FICKLEN 5/9 @ 10AM
CAHS CEREMONY MAIN CAMPUS STUDENT CENTER 5/10 9AM & 12PM



Referring Students



ACADEMIC STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



Academic Coaching Sessions
Brief Counseling Support
Student Success Workshops
Referrals to Campus & Community Resources
Consultation with Faculty & Staff



Melissa Wallace, MS, LCMHC, Senior Academic Support Specialist



(252) 744-2114



Schedule a Meeting (QR Code)



3370 Health Sciences Bldg.



Wallaceme@ECU.EDU

In-person & Virtual Meeting Options

Budget Update

State Salary and Operating Budget

Fiscal Year 2025

Permanent Budget - \$14.80 Million

EHRA Salary/Benefits - \$12.55 Million (84.70%)

- Salary - \$9.31 Million
- Benefits - \$3.24 Million

SHRA Salary/Benefits - \$1.58 Million (10.06%)

- Salary - \$1.02 Million
- Benefits – \$560,000

Operating Dollars - \$669,000 (4.50%)

Medical Foundations

Fiscal Year 2025

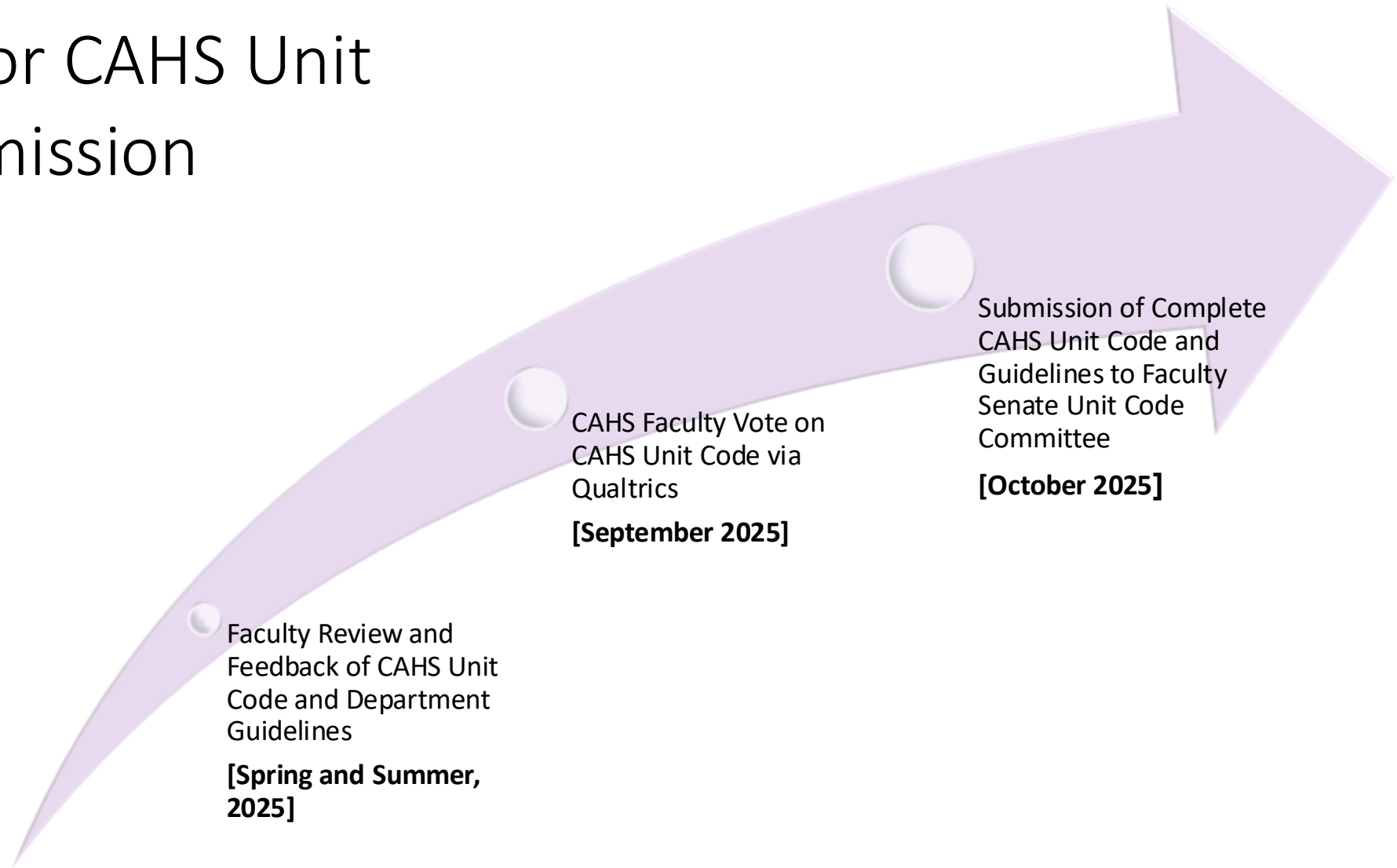
Total Donations Received - \$209,360

- Student Scholarships - \$104,375
- Priority Funding - \$69,996
- Other Funding - \$34,989

Student Scholarships - Academic Year 2025-2026 / Summer 2025

- Total Scholarships Awarded - \$168,716
- 101 Student Scholarships

Timeline for CAHS Unit Code Submission



Proposed Changes to Standing Committees

The faculty council proposes two changes related to the structure of the unit code:

1. That the Election's Committee be changed from a standing committee to an ad hoc or special committee that will only be formed when an election is needed. Once the election is concluded the committee is dissolved. The Chair of the Faculty Council will request volunteers or assign no less than 3 members to the Elections Committee.
2. That the current Interprofessional Education CAHS Taskforce be transitioned to a standing Interprofessional Education and Practice CAHS committee

Faculty Governance Engagement Survey

