

## **The University of Arizona College of Health Sciences Executive Summary**

As the only land-grant university in Arizona, the University of Arizona (UArizona) is committed to meeting the needs of the state's residents. This is particularly relevant in the health care environment, where workforce shortages across various specialties have contributed to challenges in access to high quality health care in some communities.

The University of Arizona College of Health Sciences (UACHS) will initially house five programs – Clinical Translational Sciences, Genetic Counseling, Midwifery, Physician Assistant, and Doctor of Physical Therapy – in two planned departments. The UACHS will be located at the University of Arizona's main campus in Tucson and will serve as a conduit to support students, faculty and staff in the delivery of high-quality academic programs focused on vital health care professions and cutting-edge translational sciences. This includes student support services, a focus on wellness for all, faculty affairs and curricular support, all of which are critical to the ongoing success of new and future health professional programs.

The decision to create this college and two new affiliated departments was both strategic and necessary. It is strategic related to the strong interprofessional focus of the health science and professional programs that will reside in this new college – Clinical Translational Sciences, Genetic Counseling, Midwifery, Physician Assistant and Physical Therapy – and their respective accreditation requirements related to interprofessional education. It is also strategic related to ongoing health workforce challenges in Arizona that limit access to health care for our communities. It is necessary because the health professional graduate programs that will be within the college have specific accreditation requirements which require a level of institutional support that cannot be fully met by current academic homes. This is particularly important as it relates to equity on faculty appointments, access to student affairs support, development of clinical training partners, and recruitment and retention efforts for underrepresented minority students, faculty and staff.

Accreditation bodies for health professional programs often require sponsoring institutional support that is equivalent to other colleges in the areas of academic appointments, curriculum support, student support services, support for recruitment and retention of underrepresented minority students and faculty, and clinical training sites that meet the needs of each professional program. These programs also can benefit from a college support structure that focuses on a strong evaluative process with data collection, analyses and program improvement, particularly when many of the accreditation self-study processes have overlap with each program.

The UACHS will focus its efforts on supporting current health professional and translational science programs with their academic needs while identifying new degree programs that seek to serve Arizona residents and the state's ongoing and projected health workforce needs.

Kevin Lohenry will serve as the Interim Dean for the UACHS. A national search for the Dean will be conducted once the proposal has been approved by the Arizona Board of Regents.