



Northern Illinois University

College of Health and Human Sciences

June 20, 2024

Dean Kelly A. Fiala

My Path to NIU

- First-generation college student at Western Michigan University
- Athletic trainer graduate assistant at Bemidji State University
- Athletic training clinical coordinator and Ph.D. student at University of Connecticut
- Almost 20 years of faculty and administrator experience including 8 years as a dean at Salisbury University



Proud to Be a Huskie



- Social mobility
- Community support through health and human sciences research and service
- Faculty and staff are impressive and eager to innovate



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



**NATIONALLY
RANKED**

U.S. News &
World Report



College of Health and Human Sciences

U.S. News & World Report has ranked us among the top programs in the nation in Rehabilitation Counseling, Audiology, Speech-Language Pathology, Public Health, Physical Therapy and Nursing (online).

1,880

Undergraduate Students.

517

Graduate Students.

11

Undergraduate
Programs.

12

Graduate
Programs.

13

Accredited
Programs.

85

Tenured/Tenure Track
and Clinical Faculty.





Strategic Planning using SOAR Analysis

- Strengths
- Opportunities
- Aspirations
- Results

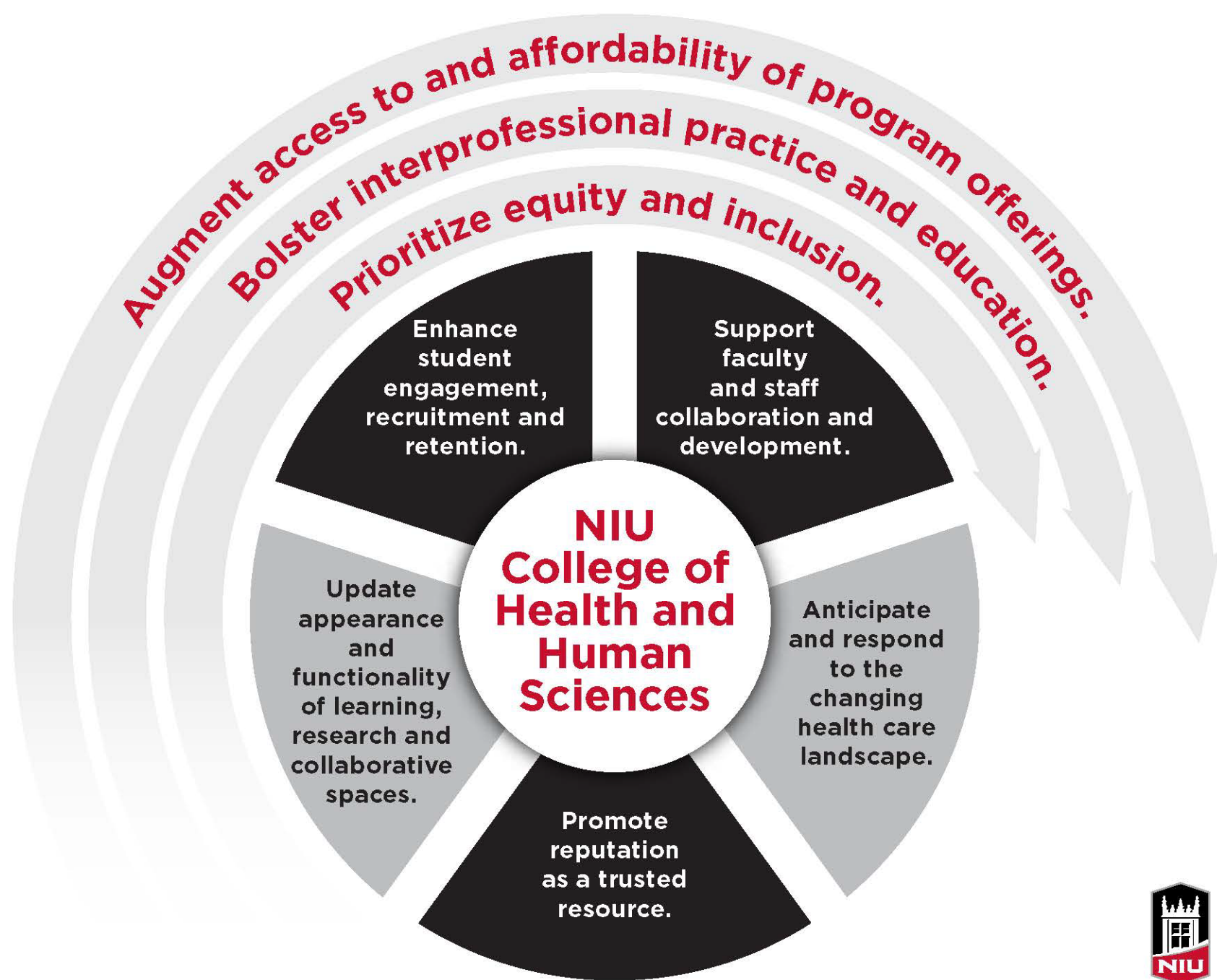
CHHS Mission and Vision



At the heart of the community, the College of Health and Human Sciences collaborates with local, national and global partners, co-creating innovative, interprofessional practices that champion health and wellness, create belonging, and celebrate difference. By developing students holistically, advancing science and engaging in values-driven service, we expand a **qualified and diverse workforce** and ensure **human thriving**.



As a catalyst for **societal transformation**, we achieve **health equity** and **wellbeing for all**. Leveraging reimagined education, groundbreaking research, and mutually enriching partnerships, we elevate person-centered, evidence-based practice and inspire systemic change.



Enhancing Recruitment and Retention

A photograph of a Black female graduate student with long blonde hair, wearing a black graduation cap and gown with a yellow stole. She is smiling and waving her right hand. The background is blurred, showing other graduates and spectators.

 NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
**College of Health and
Human Sciences**

**Fostering Partnerships
to Cultivate the Next Generation
of Health Professionals**

Friday, May 3, 2024, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Northern Illinois University, Naperville Campus, Room 111
1120 E. Diehl Road, Naperville, IL 60563

- Area Health Education Center (AHEC)
 - Community college partnerships
 - Mentoring programs
 - Opportunity grants
 - Physical Therapy Boot Camp
 - Nursing Student Success: Peer Mentoring/ Supplemental Instruction

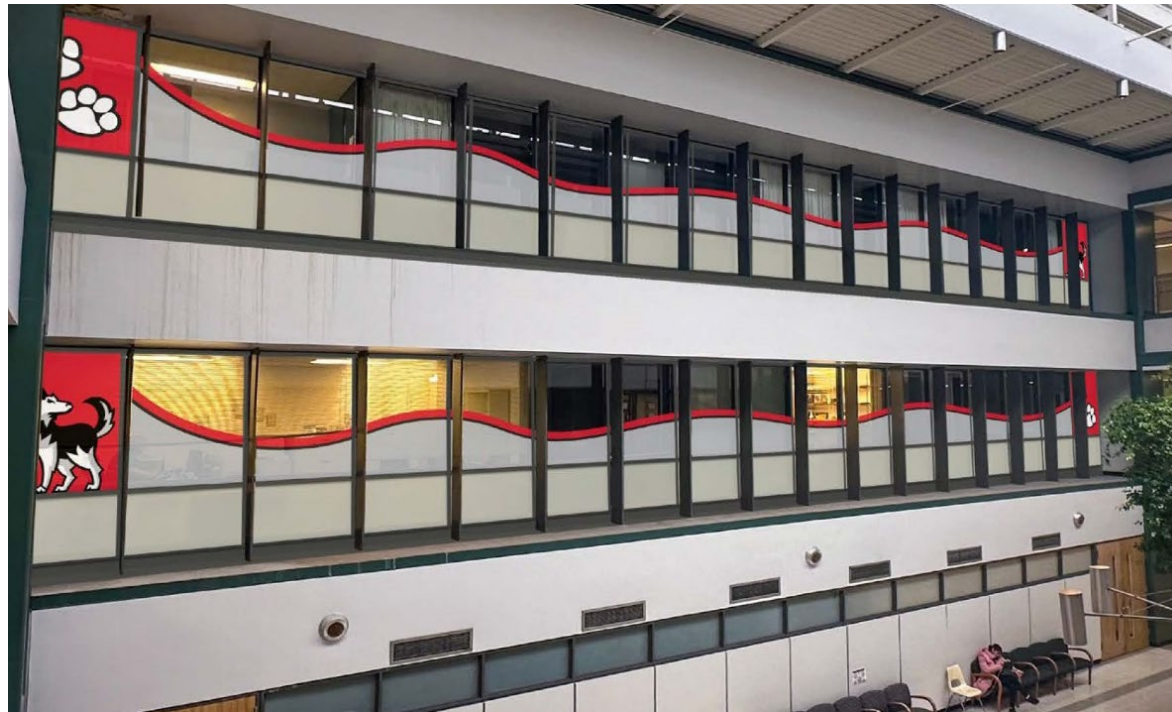
Enhancing Recruitment and Retention

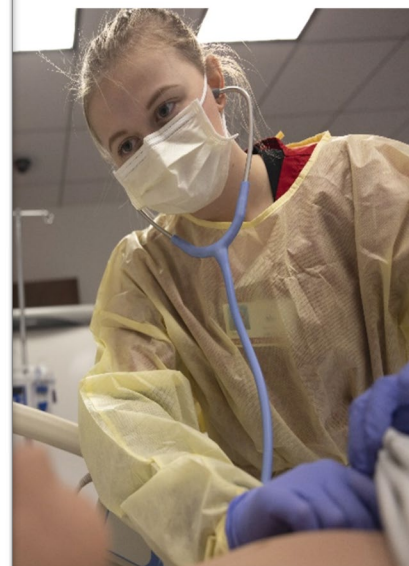
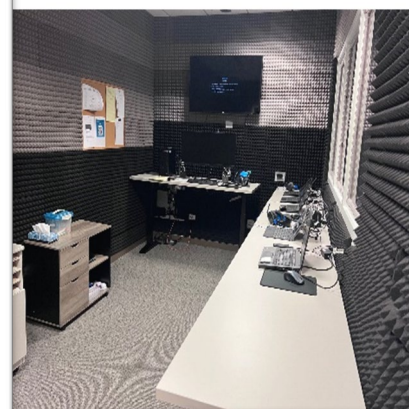
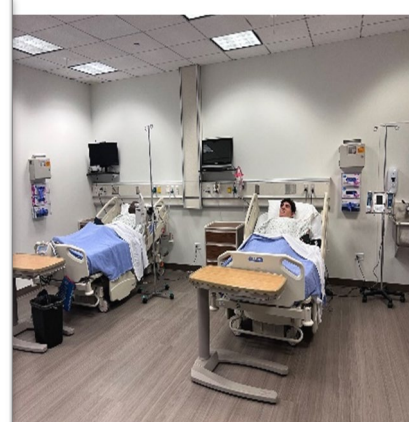


- Coordinated co-curricular opportunities for students applying to graduate health programs
- Launched inaugural chapter of NIU Black Student Nurse Organization
- Initiated Black, Hispanic and Latino/Latina alumni volunteer program
- Established health preprofessional honor society, Alpha Epsilon Delta



Enhancing Recruitment and Retention





Supporting Faculty and Staff



ONLINE KEYNOTE

Maternal, Child, and
Reproductive Health
Equity Conference



**What's On the Horizon in
Maternal, Child, & Reproductive
Health Equity Research?**

Priority Topics, Anticipated
Funding Mechanisms, and Tips
for Success

LED BY: DR. HILLARY BRACKEN
Associate Director
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
(PCORI)

Virtual Session (with breakouts)
Monday, May 13, 2024

2:30PM ET - 4:30PM ET
1:30PM CT - 3:30PM CT



- **Special Interest Groups**
 - Champion reproductive, maternal and infant health equity.
 - Enhance quality of life for older adults with amputation or those requiring orthotic devices.
 - Promote healthy aging by exploring the intersection of hearing loss and dementia onset.
 - Understand the effects of embodiment and creating art on the body, the spirit and community.
 - Exploring protective factors for cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease (AD) and AD-related dementias.
- **Hope Research Fund**

Supporting Faculty and Staff



- Teaching-focused Lunch-and-Learn series in collaboration with CITL
- Workload equity, Intercultural Development Inventory and Factuality
- The Leadership Challenge within CHHS, Crucial Conversations and Academic Chairpersons Conference
- Administrative reorganization

Strengthening Our Identity



Dr. M. Courtney Hughes
MAC Award Winner
Outstanding Faculty Award for
Student Success

Jessica Madrigal
40 under 40 Emerging Nurse
Leaders by the Illinois Nurses
Foundation



Marcia Berke
2024 Illinois School Health
Association Lifetime
Achievement Award
Winner

White House Office of Science
and Technology named
NIU FoodMASTER as
2024 Open Science to
Advance Education Winner
Melani Duffrin (co-PI)
Henna Muzaffar



Strengthening Our Identity

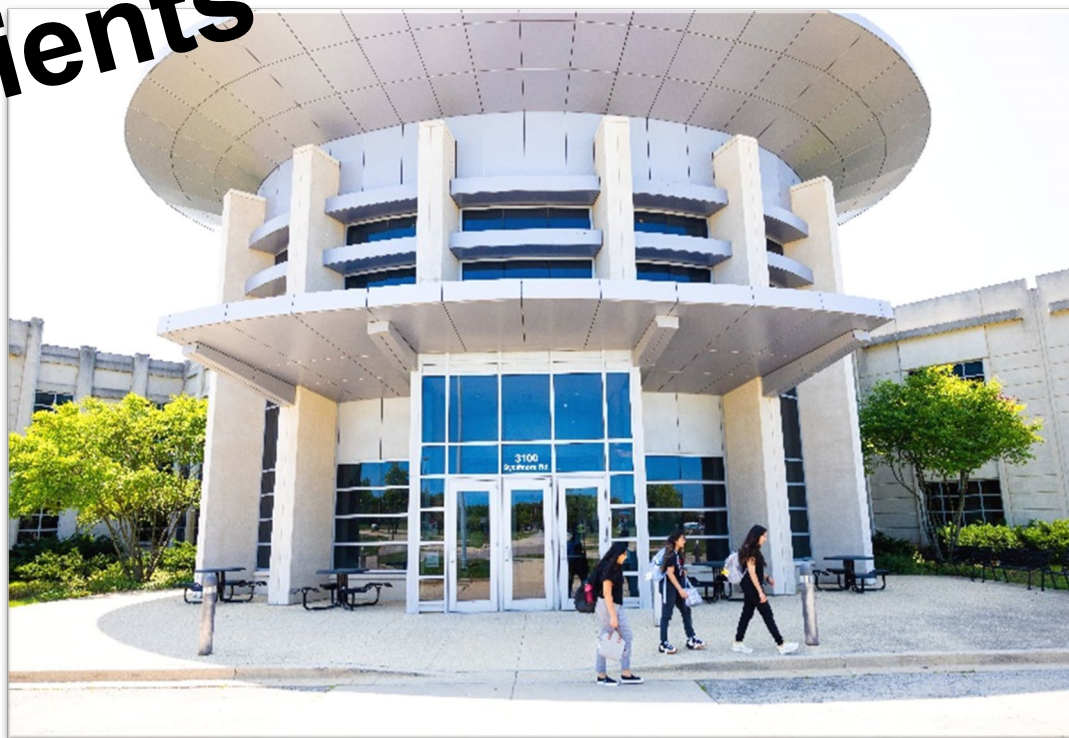


- Founded the CHHS Advisory Board in October 2023.
- A 35-member board with an impressive array of credentials, experiences and connections to NIU.
- Three meetings over the past year, including two in-person events.

Strengthening Our Identity



**6,500
patients**



Physical Therapy
Clinic



Speech-Language-
Hearing Clinic



Couple & Family
Therapy Clinic

Strengthening Our Identity

Child Development and Family Center

- 50% of center's enrollment are children of NIU students, faculty and staff.
- 60% of children enrolled are from underrepresented populations.
- More than 1,900 individual observations in the 2023-2024 academic year.



