

# **Blueprint for Academic Excellence Arnold School of Public Health 2008**

## **I. Vision, Mission and Goals**

### **A. Executive Summary**

*We strive to be recognized nationally and internationally for our outstanding graduates and for research that impacts our understanding of and ability to improve the public's health through dissemination and outreach to and collaboration with communities, agencies and organizations.*

The Arnold School of Public Health is recognized for its productivity in particular areas, based somewhat on the scholarship of individual faculty members and their research groups. In addition, particular academic programs have gained national recognition. We believe that as the School develops more programs and activities earning these types of professional commendations, our reputation as a school will continue to grow accordingly.

*The mission of the Arnold School of Public Health is to expand, disseminate and apply the body of knowledge regarding prevention of disease, disability and environmental degradation; promotion of health and well-being in diverse populations; and provision of effective, efficient and equitable health services.*

The vision statement affirms that we strive for the level of excellence in teaching, research and outreach that yields national and international recognition for our efforts to improve the public's health. The mission statement also addresses these three fundamental areas of the academic triad through the action words of "expand, disseminate and apply the body of knowledge" with a more detailed description of the components of the public's health we are addressing; this description is intended to be comprehensive of the breadth of our activities. During the past year, we have continued to be a leading research unit on campus, as indicated by dissemination in both scientific and lay venues and by research funding. The increases from Fall 2006 to Fall 2007 in applications (19% across all graduate programs) and enrollment (5% for graduate programs, 10% for undergraduate program) reflect our growing reputation for academic excellence and our ability to attract quality students. The growth in the Office of Public Health Practice and the development of the South Carolina Public Health Institute are but two indicators of our outreach to our local and state community. We have intentionally absorbed the 2007 goals reflecting topical areas for particular emphasis into the broader goals in acknowledgement that the full diversity of our School's faculty and students will never be captured in such a short list.

### **Goals for the Arnold School of Public Health**

1. To provide educational programs of excellence for public health professionals and scholars to gain recognition as one of the top ten schools of public health in public institutions of higher education
2. To achieve and maintain research excellence as demonstrated by the creation of knowledge of high impact and importance to public health
3. To utilize available knowledge to address health and environmental issues that face South Carolina, the nation and the world community
4. To provide the infrastructure and resources to meet the goals of education, research, and professional service