

# Arnold School of Public Health

## 2007 Blueprint for Quality Enhancement

### 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 activities 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 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. While our goals do identify several topical areas for particular emphasis in the School in the next five to ten years that are also directly related to the University's research goals, we acknowledge 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
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
5. To develop and coordinate research, academic and outreach activities related to health disparities, broadly defined to include disparities related to race/ethnicity, age, gender, rural/urban residence, and socioeconomic status

6. To develop and coordinate research, academic and outreach activities related to physical activity, nutrition and obesity, including how they relate to outcomes such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer
7. To develop and coordinate research and academic activities related to molecular science and to imaging
8. To develop and coordinate research and academic activities related to the environment and human health, human effects on the environment, and occupational health