

# GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Committee on Academic Affairs

May 15, 2019

### **Academic Affairs Highlights**

Carol J. Erting, Provost

*Enhance Academic and Community Vitality: Positioning Gallaudet as a Thought-Leader related to Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Deaf-Blind People and for all of Humanity.*

For the first time since the **Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education** was created, Gallaudet has been classified as a “Doctoral University: High Research Activity (R2).” The Carnegie Commission on Higher Education created the Carnegie classification system as a framework for classifying U.S. colleges and universities, primarily for educational and research purposes. The classification was first published in 1973 with eight periodic updates including the most recent one in 2018.

The Doctoral Research Activity classification is based on two criteria:

- 1) the number of research/scholarship doctoral degrees conferred or professional practice doctoral degrees conferred in at least 2 programs document in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and,
- 2) at least \$5 million in total research expenditures documented through the National Science Foundation (NSF) Higher Education Research & Development Survey (HERD).

When institutions meet these two criteria, the level of research activity is then determined. R1 indicates Very High research activity while R2 indicates High research activity. This calculation is based on two scores:

- 1) the University’s aggregate level of research activity and,
- 2) the per-capita research activity using the expenditure and staffing measures divided by the number of full-time faculty.

Prior to the December 2018 reclassification, Gallaudet was classified as “Master’s College and Universities – Medium programs.” The shift in classification is due to Gallaudet’s increase in the number of graduates of our doctoral research/scholarship programs, demonstrating Gallaudet’s progress toward achieving our research goals as articulated in the Gallaudet Strategic Plan (GSP) 2010 – 2016 (Goal E) and the current Short-Term Strategic Plan 2017 – 2020 (Priority Five – Enhance Academic and Community Vitality). Specific activities that supported the achievement of R2 status included sustained investment in research, support from the Board of Trustees’ sub-committee on research, recruitment of faculty with high research interest and productivity, and increased student enrollment in and graduation from doctoral programs. To maintain the “Doctoral Universities: High Research Activity (R2)” classification, Gallaudet must continue investing in research, including recruiting, retaining, and graduating our students in research doctoral programs.

## **Research:**

The **Technology Access Program (TAP)** successfully partnered with Google to complete the release of its Live Transcribe app, which allows captioning of face-to-face conversations with a degree of accuracy and speed not seen before in its competitors. To date, it has received much positive acclaim from community members far beyond the Gallaudet University network, and received over 1 million downloads. Additionally, TAP has been recognized by a well-respected community advocate for transforming DeafBlind access to telecommunications and video relay services through its work on real-time text. TAP also recently presented a student project at the CSUN conference on Alexa accessibility to a packed audience, including many Amazon employees. These are just three examples of how leadership at Gallaudet University has transformed the way people communicate and interact with technology. TAP looks forward to continuing its work over the next few months, especially in the areas of Alexa accessibility, caption quality metrics, and innovative ways to measure functional equivalence in telecommunications, many of these by means of summer mentorship of students.

The **Deaf Health Communication and Quality of Life Center (DHCQoL)**, directed by Dr. Poorna Kushalnagar, has gained attention from the public as several collaborative projects were implemented and completed this year. The National Genome Research Institute of NIH worked with DHCQoL Center to produce an ASL film on genetic testing for breast cancer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyFSp3VJQQ0&feature=youtu.be>).

The Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, based in North Carolina, is working with DHCQoL Center to bring private health foundations to Gallaudet. Partnerships are being formed with nonprofit organizations to translate DHCQoL's research findings to Deaf community health practices. In 2019, Dr. Kushalnagar submitted three NIH grants. If funded, these will involve collaborations with health professionals, accessible technology experts, Deaf patients, and caregivers.

Contributing to academic and community vitality is central to the work of the **Schuchman Deaf Documentary Center**. Research for the Deaf NYC project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, ZVRS and additional donors, is well underway with 18 interviews completed. In March, the Center co-hosted a panel discussion at Lexington School for the Deaf. Brian Greenwald and Jean Lindquist Bergey recently delivered the keynote address at the Oral History Mid-Atlantic Region conference on the topic of conducting interviews in ASL. Student interns are working to map deaf NYC spaces, research sterilization of deaf people in the United States, and develop a short documentary on deaf Peace Corps Volunteers. Collaborating with Video Services and the Center for Bilingual Teaching and Learning, the Center developed ASL/English teaching materials for the *Story in Film: History of the Documentary* course. New Program Review is underway for a new minor in documentary studies.

Gallaudet University's **Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP)** provides services and support to Gallaudet faculty and staff seeking external funding for research and training projects. The federal government shutdown ended on January 25, 2019, after 35 days. The majority of Gallaudet's grants were approved for continuation well before the shutdown occurred. This fiscal year, so far, the OSP has submitted 17 proposals totaling \$10,677,750 and has received six awards totaling \$105,883.

**Dr. Paul Sabila** continues his collaboration with Harvard University on the Center for Integrated Quantum Materials. This project, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the amount of \$30,000, uses new quantum materials to access atomic-scale electronic and photonic devices that transform signal processing and computing. The work will entail synthesis, analysis and characterization of nanomaterials. **Dr. Caroline Solomon** continues her work with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science through the NSF. This award provides the existing project with supplemental funding in the amount of \$13,046. The program pairs 15 students with scientist-mentors at two laboratories in the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. The program provides opportunities for undergraduates from a variety of majors to experience what research, graduate school, and life are like at interdisciplinary, graduate research marine laboratories. The goal of the program is to increase interest, understanding, and retention of undergraduates in marine science, while instilling a lifelong appreciation for both research and the marine environment.

The OSP, Research Support and International Affairs, the Institutional Review Board, and Graduate School and Continuing Education worked together over the past year to implement a new, integrated research and grants management tool, the **Cayuse Research Suite**. This joint effort will centralize and improve Responsible Conduct of Research training, OSP proposal development, and the tracking of compliance related training. With the implementation of Cayuse, CITI Human Subjects and Conflict of Interest modules, grant/contract management will become more easily monitored and audited.

The OSP staff has worked with the Finance Office and Human Resources to provide training workshops on Departmental Research Administration, Grant Management for Support Staff and Post-Award Federal Grants Training for researchers who currently have federal grants. These workshops provide professional development for project directors and departmental support staff while promoting research integrity and fiscal stewardship of sponsored research funds.

### **Academic Programs:**

The **International Development MA Program (IDMA) Program** has undertaken initiatives that help advance Gallaudet's academic vitality. (1) Jarvis Grindstaff, a graduate student in this program, recently won a competitive Fulbright scholarship to pursue his research project, "Social Inclusion and Technology Innovation: Examining the Impact of Communication Technologies for Deaf People's Social Integration in Thailand." This project examines the development of the Thai Telecommunication Relay Service and its relationship to the Thai Deaf and disability rights movements. (2) Dr. Audrey Cooper, the director of this program, won a highly competitive summer stipend from the National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH), which provides recipients an opportunity to pursue advanced work in the humanities. Dr. Cooper's research project, titled "Disaster Mitigation, Deaf Leadership, Adaptation and Resilience in Việt Nam", will draw on original ethnographic research with Deaf community-based organizations and their members in order to generate analytic insights into Deaf community members' thought processes and organizational decision-making practices related to disaster preparedness, response and recovery (3) The IDMA program has offered two special topics courses this spring, cross-listed across UG, graduate and PST programs, that are focused on disaster risk reduction and

emergency preparedness (DRR&EP). One of the courses is co-taught by seven faculty from a variety of programs including **Biology, Public Health and Social Work**. These courses could lead to a new interdisciplinary initiative that is concerned with climate change and global challenges from the perspective of people with disabilities.

The **Department of Physical Education and Recreation**, in partnership with Gallaudet's Business Development Office, has inaugurated Camp Discovery. Two sessions will be offered, weekdays from July 8-July 19; and the second session from July 22-August 2019. The Camp is focused on serving children, ages 4 to 11 years, who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Kids of Deaf Adults but all are welcome. The Camp will offer a variety of activities including ASL storytelling and dance, strops, swimming, science, and arts camp; crafts. For more information, contact [CampDiscovery@gallaudet.edu](mailto:CampDiscovery@gallaudet.edu).

The **Department of Hearing, Speech and Language Sciences** successfully transitioned from a four-year to a three-year Doctoral Audiology program. HSLs successfully graduated the 7th cohort of the Peer Mentoring program whereby doctoral Audiology students under the supervision of Faculty, train Hard of Hearing or Deaf adults from across the country via a hybrid online/on-site and learn to become mentors for other hard of hearing or deaf individuals who have acquired a hearing loss and benefit from their knowledge and support. HSLs recommenced accepting students in our HSLs Ph.D. program and have four students who have enrolled for September.

In collaboration with NAD and Gallaudet Departments of **ASL and Deaf Studies, Education, Government and Social Work**, BA and BSW students worked with student representatives from schools for the deaf and mainstreamed programs across the nation on April 26 at the Youth Summit on Education Advocacy in preparation for visits to Capitol Hill. BSW and MSW students had an opportunity to interact with Congressional members and representatives <https://youtu.be/K9Ge0rOfImE>.

The **Department of English** under the leadership of Dr. Martreece Watson launched the **Academic Learning Lab for Student Training, Academic Achievement and Readiness (ALLSTAR)** earlier this academic year. The ALLSTAR Lab provides support for the academic, social and mentoring needs of students of color at Gallaudet. The number of students utilizing this resource has steadily increased and early assessment data are promising.

The **Tinkerlab** is in full swing with members of the campus community using computer numerical control (CNC) Routers, three CNC sewing and embroidering machines, three laser cutters, virtual reality headsets, tablets, and computers programmed with 3d print and Geomagic Touch tool. Tinkerlab Knowledge Assistants work with students, faculty and staff to guide and support them as they become familiar with the equipment. Use of the Tinkerlab has also been integrated into several courses.

#### **Research Support and International Affairs (RSIA):**

RSIA's Education Abroad Office is seeing an upsurge in interest among student seeking international study and internship opportunities, receiving 32 applications for 2019 summer

abroad studies (compared to 16 during the summer of 2018). Six out of eleven students who applied won Gilman scholarships from the U.S. Department of State to study abroad during the summer of 2019. Four will participate in Gallaudet's LSE Program in Madrid: Gabriella Matteo (\$4,000 scholarship); and Lauren Brown, Anjel Perez, and Isela Garcia, (\$1,000 scholarship each). Two students will participate in the Siena Deaf Studies Program in Italy: Jared Spinale, (\$3,500 scholarship), and Casey Peck, (\$3,000 scholarship). Shentara Cobb, who will also attend the Siena Deaf Studies Program, was named an alternate. Six is the highest number of Gilman Scholarships ever awarded at Gallaudet in one semester.

For the first time, a Gallaudet student won the highly competitive scholarship from the Fund for Education Abroad. Felix Gonzalez, who is majoring in information technology and minoring in Spanish, is one of seven recipients of the Greater D.C. Area Scholarship for 2019-2020. He is one of 14 Gallaudet students who will participate in a Gallaudet-Council on International Education Exchange program this summer in Madrid, Spain. RSIA is steadily bilingualizing education abroad information. For example, a new vlog informs students about global internship opportunities, and lets them know how they can find those that suit their interests and needs, requirements, and how to apply.

For the first time since 2010-2011, Gallaudet students have Fulbright awards. Doris Alcantara, an undergraduate student majoring in government, Spanish, and international studies won a Fulbright award for a project in the Dominican Republic. She joins Jarvis Grindstaff, a dual major in the international development and public administration master's programs, who will study in Thailand this September. Visiting Fulbright scholars from Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Russia, Serbia, and Zimbabwe received information from RSIA staff on Gallaudet's approach to accessibility in education, communities, and the arts on a global scale. The scholars are professors and researchers with high ambitions to make a positive impact on their respective communities during their careers.

RSIA is coordinating an effort among several staff units to tackle the issues of isolation and loneliness among non-U.S. students at Gallaudet, by identifying campus resources and ways to deliver services to these students in need to ensure their well being.

### **Student Success:**

This spring, **Student Success and Academic Quality (SSAQ)** has trained academic departments, advisors, and professional staff on *Navigate*, our student success platform and mobile App, to be rolled out to the campus for Academic Year 2019 – 2020 and beyond. To date, we have over 415 students who have downloaded the App with an assertive marketing plan to reach out to all undergraduate/graduate students, faculty, and professional staff to utilize this important student success tool.

On March 1, 2019, the **Career Center** held a Career Fair that yielded more than 360 student attendees and over 50 employers. On March 25, Gallaudet entered into an MOU with the **Defense Logistics Agency** to produce more internships and career opportunities for our students. On April 5<sup>th</sup>, several C-level executives from **Proctor & Gamble** visited Gallaudet, resulting in several students securing internships at their headquarters. In addition, discussions with the **Science, Technology and Mathematics (STM)** faculty resulted in a preliminary plan for a

multifaceted partnership with Proctor & Gamble aimed at creating career pathways for our students.

A sense of belonging is the overarching theme for our **Retention Council for AY 2019 – 2020**. The Retention Council (RC) has identified 6 key barriers that negatively impact a student's sense of belonging. RC members have been asked to tackle one of the 6 barriers to student success. Their strategies and action plan will be documented and monitored over the academic year using SMART Goals. The 6 key areas are as follows:

1. Financial: Our students continue to struggle financially at Gallaudet. Many come to Gallaudet not fully understanding their financial accountability and end up having to leave Gallaudet due to financial barriers
2. Linguistic: Gallaudet continues to see many emerging signers feeling oppressed especially when this student population is increasing at Gallaudet
3. Racial: Gallaudet has a strong history of racism and systems of oppression. Our students of color continue to not feel safe or welcome on campus mainly because there are many people that do not “look like them” nor are there allies available to provide support
4. Social: Gallaudet's social scene is not visible. Many events are not coordinated in a way to make accessible for our students to learn the myriad of events at Gallaudet. There are not enough coordinated events that invite faculty and staff to be engaged with our students.
5. Academic: Gallaudet University continues to see students arrive at Gallaudet without the skills required to support a successful academic experience (i.e. time management, study habits)
6. Safe and Brave Spaces: Many students with diverse backgrounds continue to feel that Gallaudet is not a safe and brave space due to cultural attitudes of audism, racism, ableism, sexism, and other -isms along with our physical/social campus and academic environments not being entirely accessible or welcoming to these students.

As this academic year comes to an end, I want to recognize and thank the provost's office staff, the faculty, staff, and student leaders, my administrative team, and the president and the executive team for their commitment to collaboration within Academic Affairs and across divisions with one goal in mind: providing an excellent education for our students that will serve them well as they leave Gallaudet for the next stage of their life's journey. It is time to celebrate now as we look forward to tomorrow afternoon's Graduate Hooding and Awards Ceremony and Friday's 149<sup>th</sup> Commencement when we will proudly confer degrees on 204 undergraduate students and 144 graduate students.