

**College of Social Work**  
**April 23, 2008**  
**Blueprint for Academic Excellence**  
**2006-2009 Strategic Plan**

**I. Vision, Mission and Goals**

**A. Executive Summary**

**Vision Statement**

Become a leading institution for innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to educating social work practitioners and scholars, conducting research, and serving as a catalyst for positive social change.

The College has made significant strides toward achieving this vision statement. Historically we have enjoyed an excellent reputation in traditional social work education. Our recent, highly positive self-study report for full reaffirmation of accreditation attests to this. We are now quickly becoming known as a school of social work “on the move” toward innovative leadership in interdisciplinary research and education. We revised our Ph.D. program last year. Today “transdisciplinary, community-engaged research” is our “signature” in doctoral social work education. We also have drawn considerable national attention with two centenary positions and two FEI positions that transcend traditional social work boundaries: Lead academic unit in the FEI African American Health Disparities cluster hire between the College of Social Work, the Arnold School of Public Health, and the Department of Psychology; FEI cluster hire with the Institute for Southern Studies on social and behavioral health issues in the Contemporary American South; a Centenary hire to conduct collaborative research in the USC-GHS Health Sciences Academic Partnership; a Centenary hire in social disparities in the built environment; and a CoEE Endowed Chair in the Smart Home component of the Senior Smart Center with the School of Medicine, Clemson University, MUSC, GHS, and other collaborators. We are now only hiring faculty whose academic disciplines or research experience transcends social work.

**Mission Statement**

Promote social well-being and social justice with vulnerable populations through dynamic teaching, research, and service conducted in collaboration with diverse people of South Carolina, the nation, and the international community.

The College has always been on target with its mission to promote social well-being and social justice for diverse populations within South Carolina, and we have developed a strong international reputation in this regard too, chiefly through our part-time MSW program in Korea and our sponsorship of the International Consortium for Social Development. We are now placing considerably more emphasis on fulfilling our mission through collaborations in South Carolina. For the first time in two decades, we have developed and will lead a statewide consortium of schools and departments of social work to train social workers in the Department of Social Services to provide child welfare services to our most vulnerable population: children who have been abused or neglected. We are also establishing a case management certificate project with the Greenville Hospital System to ensure uninsured populations get access to adequate health care in a timely manner. We have established new satellites in Charleston and Greenville to improve access to our MSW program. And we are developing a continuing education program to increase the number of licensed social workers in the Department of Mental Health.

Goal 1: Build a Sustainable Research Agenda and Capability

Goal 2: Enhance Economic Sustainability of the College

Goal 3: Strengthen and Ensure Integrity of Educational Programs

Goal 4: Strengthen Structure and Support Systems

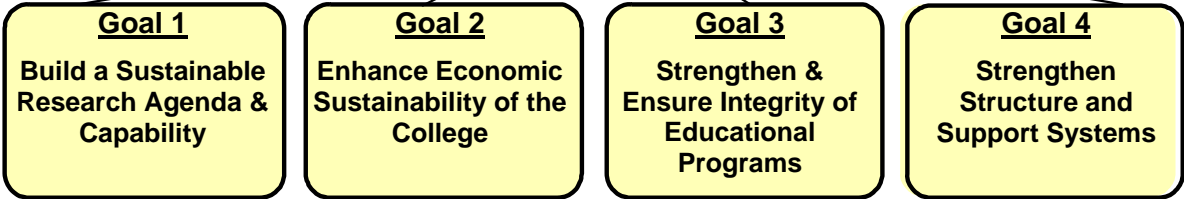
Woven through each of the long-term goals is the strategic priority of strengthening engagement and collaboration with diverse communities.

**B. Goals, Initiatives and Action Plans - Goals established in COSW 2006-2009 Blueprint (next page)**

**USC College of Social Work  
Strategic Plan: 2006-2009**

**MISSION:** Promote social well-being and social justice with vulnerable populations through dynamic teaching, research, and service conducted in collaboration with diverse people of South Carolina, the nation, and the international community.

**VISION:** Become a leading institution for innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to educating social work practitioners and scholars, conducting research, and serving as a catalyst for positive social change.



<b>Create New Research Infrastructure</b>	Increase Enrollments in Undergraduate Minor	Strengthen Quality of Undergraduate Minor	<b>Increase Technological Capacity of College</b>
<b>Provide Incentives for Faculty Research</b>	<b>Develop an Accredited BSW Program</b>	Ensure Integrity of the MSW Program	Enhance Facility Space of the College
<b>Increase Faculty Resources for Research</b>	Increase & Maintain Enrollment in MSW Program	<b>Strengthen New PhD Program in Transdisciplinary Community-Engaged Research</b>	<b>Refine Governance Policies of the College</b>
<b>Strengthen Academic Culture to Support Research</b>	<b>Increase Foundation Grants and Major Gifts</b>	Enhance the College's Global Reputation	Improve Student Support Services & Experiences

**Strengthen Engagement and Collaboration with Diverse Communities**

*Dark blue boxes indicate high priority initiatives for 2008-2009.*