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# UND SMHS Strategic Plan Individual Unit Report for 2021

## GOAL 7 for **Physician Assistant Studies**

### LEARNING

**One UND Strategic Plan Goal 7: Attract support for the University by actively engaging alumni and donors. Goal by 2022, increase alumni contribution participation to 10% and achieve targeted fund raising goals set for each Dean, Vice President, and President.**

**UND SMHS Strategic Plan Goal 7: The SMHS will achieve the targeted fund raising goals set for the SMHS Dean and Vice President for Health Affairs.**

#### 1. Describe if/how your unit has addressed this goal.

The DPAS continues to work with the Office of Alumni and Community Relations to support the “Adopt a PA Student” fundraiser where donors submit funds to provide professional white coats for PA students who are about to begin their clinical experiences. Donors are encouraged to write letters to the students with the goal to provide a lasting supportive connection between alum and student/new graduate clinician.

Additional donations to the DPAS are typically specified for one of the two student scholarship funds offered annually to PA students who meet the mission criteria. After the sudden loss of Daryl Sieg, a DPAS faculty member recently in May 2020, students are working with UND and the North Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants to explore an additional scholarship fund for students as a memorial in his name.

The program has done a recent push with alums notifying them of the changes in the program to include the loss of a faculty member, new accreditation requirements, and the increasing need for preceptorships and clinical sites. Results of these efforts in terms of faculty and preceptor recruitment are still pending.

Similar to prior years, additional efforts to connect with alums have included local alumni reunions (not as of recent due to the pandemic), distribution of DPAS newsletters, birthday cards, and personal thank you notes and/or phone calls for donors. The DPAS is too small to support an endowed chair or professorship currently.

#### 2. Describe how your efforts are being assessed.

Informal assessment of continued conversations with the Office of Alumni and Community Relations to share resources, ideas and feedback occurs on a regular basis. No formal assessment efforts have been implemented. As noted above, results from a recent push of updated information for alums this summer are still pending.

#### 3. Describe how your unit analyzed these data and what assessments were determined.

No formal data has been collected to date. The DPAS Marketing, Alumni, Scholarships and Ceremonies (MASC) Committee continually explores opportunities to actively engage alumni in program functions.

#### 4. Describe how your unit will implement any further changes and what barriers may exist.

As stated previously, the DPAS MASC Committee will continue working with the SMHS Office of Alumni and Community Relations to share ideas moving forward related to engaging alumni and donors in PA program functions. Ideas and suggestions are always welcomed!

**PROVIDE A RATING OF YOUR PROGRESS ON THIS GOAL:** ● On Track

