

THE UNIVERSITY *of* NORTH TEXAS  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER *at* FORT WORTH



# IMPACT 2030

Commitment to Community



School of  
Public Health





**SHAFIK DHARAMSI, PH.D.**  
DEAN AND PROFESSOR

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

As we continue to steer the course for our School of Public Health into the future, please accept our heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed their time, energy, intellect and dedication to the creation of our strategic plan.

### IMPACT 2030 – Commitment to Community

Shaped by extensive input from our collaborators and partners, our plan charts a clear course for the future, ensuring that our commitment to advancing health equity remains unwavering. It will also guide us through to our next accreditation review in 2031.

**Our promise to our students** is rooted in a transformative educational experience. You will not only gain conceptual knowledge but will be immersed in practical learning on real-world public health challenges. This practice-based approach ensures that, upon graduation, you will be competent, compassionate and community-centered professionals who are committed to advancing health equity in every community.

As a graduate of our School of Public Health, you can expect:

#### Relevant and Practical Learning

Our curriculum is designed to provide you with real-world insights, allowing you to directly apply your knowledge to address population, community and health systems-level challenges.

#### Community-Centered Approaches

You will be equipped with the tools to work with communities effectively, recognizing and honoring their unique knowledge and expertise. Your approach will be centered on collaboration and inclusivity.

#### Competence in Professional Roles

Whether your path leads you to public health practice, health administration, health policy or research, our programs ensure you are well-prepared for the dynamic and evolving landscape of public health and health administration professions.

#### Compassionate Leadership

We foster a culture of professionalism, empathy and understanding, emphasizing the significance of these qualities in addressing health disparities and advancing equitable solutions.

#### Dedication to Impact

Our commitment extends beyond your education to the profound impact you can make. Upon graduation, you not only contribute to positive change but also lead transformative initiatives, leaving an enduring mark on the communities you serve.

#### Our commitment to community and health

**sector partners** is deeply rooted in collaboration, impact and the shared goal of creating healthier communities. We understand that dependable and reliable partnerships are the cornerstone of addressing complex public health challenges, and we are dedicated to advancing health equity through socially accountable, community-centric and globally relevant education, research and service.

#### When you choose to partner with us, you can expect:

**Collaborative Solutions:** We prioritize collaborative problem-solving, actively working with our community and health sector partners to co-create solutions that address the unique health challenges that our communities face. Your experience, insights and expertise are integral to the success of our shared endeavors.

**Community-Responsive Research:** Our research and professional services initiatives are designed to be both responsive and relevant to the needs of communities. By partnering with us, you will work alongside leading researchers who contribute to the advancement of health equity and transformative improvements in public health.

**Collective Capacity Building:** We are committed to enhancing our collective capacity for community-driven solutions and workforce development. Through our partnerships, we aim to develop the skills and knowledge needed to collaboratively advance health equity.

**Community-Centeredness:** Our commitment to community extends to our partnerships. We recognize and honor the unique strengths of each community and health sector partner. We seek out, honor and apply community knowledge and expertise in advancing health equity and innovation. Together, we strive to create impactful solutions that leave no one behind.

**Sustainable Impact:** Sustainable and enduring impact is very important to us. Our partnerships are not transient; they are built for the long term. We are dedicated to collectively advancing the health and well-being of communities, ensuring sustained positive change.

**Shared Commitments:** As partners, we help advance research, policies and practices that promote health equity. Through joint efforts, we aim to inform systemic transformation that addresses the root causes of health disparities and fosters a culture of health for all.

**Join us** on this journey of academic excellence, practical application and community-driven impact. Together, we will shape a future that positions us at the forefront of addressing pressing public health challenges, advancing health equity and ensuring healthier communities in North Texas and beyond.

#### Shafik Dharamsi, Ph.D. | Dean and Professor

School of Public Health | The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth

## IMPACT 2030

Commitment to Community



## QUOTES FROM OUR PARTNERS

"This strategic plan underscores the School of Public Health at The University of North Texas Health Science Center's unwavering commitment to eradicating health disparities and promoting health equity through the pillars of education, research, and service. Their steadfast dedication to forging partnerships with local, national, and global communities will serve as a beacon, lighting the path forward in achieving universal health equity. ASPPH applauds the school's exemplary leadership and resolute commitment to this vision. We eagerly anticipate witnessing the transformative initiatives the school will enact to foster thriving communities."

**Laura Magaña, PhD**  
President & CEO  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)

"Congratulations on the completion of the HSC School of Public Health Strategic Plan! As the Director of Dallas County Health and Human Services, I see the frontline workforce needs for public health, and I appreciate that the HSC School of Public Health will be preparing students to focus on social accountability, community and partnerships. We look forward to partnering with you to help accomplish your educational efforts, and we also look forward to being able to work with your faculty and graduates in the future."

**Dr. Philip Huang**  
Director/Health Authority  
Dallas County Health and Human Services Department

"Congratulations to Dean Dharamsi and colleagues for completing their ambitious strategic plan, Impact 2030. The plan is a model for centering community, health equity and social accountability. HSC's School of Public Health is poised for elevated reach and impact."

**Dr. Rodney Lyn**  
Dean, Georgia State University School of Public Health

"JPS Health Network stands in partnership with HSC School of Public Health for its commitment to the health of Tarrant County residents. The School of Public Health continues to identify pressing health challenges while producing long-term solutions that will address health inequities in the North Texas community and beyond."

**Dr. Karen Duncan**  
CEO and President, JPS Health Network

"THEnet enthusiastically embraces the School of Public Health's bold and impact-driven strategic plan that champions multi-sectoral collaboration and social accountability as pivotal pillars for sustainable development. This strategic framework centers communities as vital partners in advancing health equity, reinforcing our collective commitment to fostering lasting change."

**Björg Pálsdóttir**  
CEO, Training for Health Equity Network: THEnet

"Your plan clearly outlines the direction the school is moving toward, and it's a great achievement. We are thrilled to be a collaborative partner in your endeavors, and we are looking forward to continuing to work with you. Additionally, we are excited to see UNT Dallas public health undergraduate students pursue their educational goals at the Health Science Center. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to this important field."

**Dr. Constance Lacy**  
Dean, UNT Dallas School of Behavioral and Human Services

"I am encouraged by the new SPH strategic plan. The vision and outlined goals align with the current needs of our global community. The applied, practice-based approach to learning ensures that students will have the experience and skills to make an immediate impact upon graduation. More importantly, this plan builds up on long-standing core values of HSC's collaborative, community-based approaches to scholarship, research, and practice, that are the foundation for future success."

**Dr. Patrick K Moonan Chief Epidemiologist, Global TB Branch, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and SPH alumnus: MPH, 2002; DrPH, 2005**

"To ensure sustainability, health care systems must strategically prioritize prevention and community-centered solutions. This will require a comprehensive understanding of the social determinants of health, proficiency in AI technologies and a heightened responsiveness to community needs. I look forward to witnessing the transformative journey led by Dr. Dharamsi and his team at SPH."

**Dr. Dimitrios Karamichos**  
Interim Dean, HSC School of Biomedical Sciences

"There is so much power in practical learning. Students who see an immediate impact in their communities will remain motivated to work through the inevitable challenges of their professional journey."

**Dr. Glenn Forister**  
Dean, HSC School of Health Professions



"The School of Public Health at HSC has embraced a noble commitment: to center teaching, research and practice within a community context. Essentially, we are educating students to be practitioners and providers, with the community as our "patient." The strategic plan requires faculty and students to serve alongside community members, not in isolation or from an ivory tower, but as partners. This involves an applied approach to learning, where each academic task and assignment is directly tied to improving the health of those around us. This change requires courage and vision, breaking through the constraints of typical academic approaches. Visioning is crucial and I am energized and excited by this refined focus and proud to be an HSC alumnus."

**Matt Richardson, DrPH, MPH, FACHE**  
Director of Public Health, Denton County

## QUOTES FROM OUR PARTNERS



## SOCIALLY ACCOUNTABLE, COMMUNITY-CENTRIC, GLOBALLY RELEVANT



### OUR VISION

*Where we want to be in the future:*  
**Health equity in every community.**

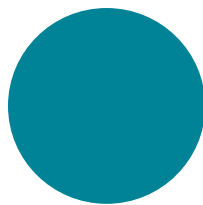
### OUR MISSION

*What we do on a day-to-day basis to work toward that future:*

**Collaboratively create solutions for healthier communities and equitable health systems through socially accountable, community-centered and globally relevant education, research and service.**

### OUR PURPOSE

*Why we are so committed:*  
**To protect and improve the health and conditions of life in North Texas, the nation and the world.**



## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### Commitment to Community

The School of Public Health's guiding principles reflect a deep commitment to ethical and impactful education, research and service in alignment with HSC Values.



Courageous Integrity



Better Together



Be Curious



Show Your Fire



We Care



### Transformative Education

Equip learners to remain at the forefront of their field through high-impact educational experiences.

### Engaged Scholarship

Foster substantive, multi-sectoral collaborations to address complex public health challenges.

### Social Accountability

Uphold human dignity and demonstrate unwavering accountability in all partnerships.

### Community-Centered Approach

Seek out, honor and apply community knowledge and expertise in advancing health equity.

### Global Relevance

Cultivate an ethic of pluralism, collaboration and interconnectivity by honoring the breadth, wisdom and lived experiences of all people.





## OUR PLAN

**Guides our journey from a bold vision to healthier communities.**

**Our goals** boldly point us toward our vision and remind us of our purpose.

**Our objectives** help us achieve our mission.

**Our key results** outline the outcomes that will cumulatively and synergistically advance us toward our goals and objectives.



**IMPACT  
2030**

**Commitment to  
Community**



## GOAL 1

**Elevate the School of Public Health as a socially accountable, community-centered and globally relevant institution for the advancement of health equity across the life course.**

Robust collaborations with community and health sector partners are crucial for ensuring that our education, research and service efforts effectively address population health needs and promote health equity.

**Objective 1a:** Strengthen multi-sectoral partnerships for community-driven health solutions.

**Key Result:** Collaborate with community and health sector partners to identify pressing health challenges and inequities and build on our shared strengths to generate solutions.

**Key Result:** Establish the School of Public Health Community Corps and provide organizational support to advance community-driven solutions and workforce development.

**Objective 1b:** Expand participatory and community-driven development.

**Key Result:** Collaboratively develop and implement interventions addressing health inequities in North Texas communities and beyond.

**Key Result:** Integrate community and health sector input into educational, research and service efforts.

**Key Result:** Improve collaborative capacity to undertake community-driven solutions and workforce development.

**Objective 1c:** Support globally relevant efforts that target the underlying determinants of health and health disparities to catalyze transformative improvements in health.

**Key Result:** Align SPH education, research and service efforts with Whole Health, the U.S. Healthy People 2030 plan and U.N. Sustainable Development Goals.

**Key Result:** Engage global partners to advance co-learning, dissemination and application of promising practices.

## GOAL 2

**Equip graduates to address pressing public health and health system challenges using community-centered approaches.**

We are deeply committed to educating a critically needed public health and health systems workforce for North Texas and beyond. Our promise to our students is rooted in a transformative educational experience. Our graduates will not only gain conceptual knowledge but will be immersed in practical learning on real-world public health and health system level challenges. This practice-based approach ensures that, upon graduation, they will be competent, compassionate and community-centered professionals who are committed to advancing health equity in every community.

**Objective 2a:** Implement high-impact, evidence-based teaching practices in all programs and across the curriculum.

**Key Result:** Provide faculty development and training on state-of-the-art teaching methods that promote active learning to address real-world challenges of public health and health systems.

**Key Result:** Increase the implementation of evidence-informed educational practices across the curriculum.

**Key Result:** Expand internship and experiential learning opportunities beyond traditional settings to enhance career readiness.

**Objective 2b:** Refine curricula to reflect emerging challenges in public health, health systems and health policy, and address health inequities in our communities.

**Key Result:** Regularly assess emerging challenges in public health, health systems and health policy using a participatory framework based on principles of community engagement.

**Key Result:** Refine curricula to reflect global challenges in public health and health systems, accreditation alignment and evolving needs of the future workforce to better serve our communities.

**We invite you to join us in our mission to improve the lives of all the people we serve, and partner with us toward a healthier tomorrow, both locally and globally.**

**Now, we begin!**

## GOAL 3

**Advance a transformative research agenda for public health impact and health equity.**

In the words of the late Harvard professor and American historian Oscar Handlin: “Our troubled planet can no longer afford the luxury of pursuits confined to an ivory tower. Scholarship has to prove its worth, not on its own terms, but by service to the nation and the world.”

**Objective 3a:** Expand implementation, team science and community-partnered research activities.

**Key Result:** Strengthen collective capacity in implementation science research and community-based participatory team science research to enhance the uptake of evidence-based practices and increase their public health impact.

**Key Result:** Increase number of grant applications that align with the research strengths within SPH, focusing on implementation science research and community-partnered team science research in the following priority areas: health disparities, health systems, health policy, maternal and child health and substance use.

**Objective 3b:** Promote globally relevant research to catalyze transformative improvements in public health.

**Key Result:** Advance research partnerships to address health inequities and align with Whole Health, Healthy People 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals.

**Key Result:** Establish seed grants to support efforts that align with Whole Health, Healthy People 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals.

Our plan positions the School of Public Health as a socially accountable, community-centric and globally relevant institution that drives transformative change, works alongside communities and health sector partners, and addresses challenges for public health and health systems in the 21st century.



# UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

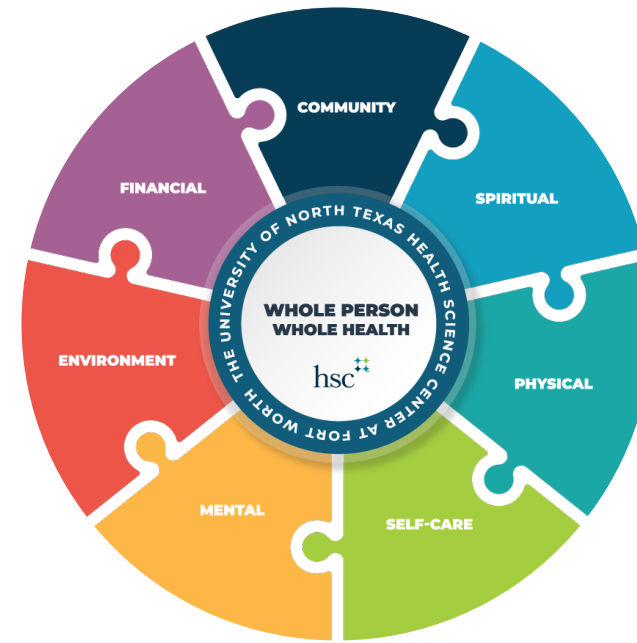
The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals present a global agenda dedicated to addressing urgent public health challenges and promoting sustainable development by 2030. Consisting of 17 interconnected goals, the SDGs are instrumental for improving health outcomes and reducing health disparities. They serve as a universal call to action, urging collaborative efforts across sectors to achieve a more equitable, resilient and sustainable world.

## Healthy People 2030

Healthy People 2030 from the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services identifies public health priorities to help individuals, organizations and communities across the United States improve health and well-being. Healthy People provides measurable public health objectives and tools to help track progress toward achieving them.

Healthy People 2030 envisions a society in which all people can achieve their full potential for health and well-being across the lifespan. The initiative's mission is to promote, strengthen and evaluate the nation's efforts to improve the health and well-being of all people. The overarching goals are to attain healthy, thriving lives and well-being free of preventable disease, disability, injury and premature death; eliminate health disparities, achieve health equity and attain health literacy to improve the health and well-being of all; create social, physical and economic environments that promote attaining the full potential for health and well-being for all; promote healthy development, healthy behaviors and well-being across all life stages; and engage leadership, key constituents and the public across multiple sectors to take action and design policies that improve the health and well-being of all.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### Community

Working with the community, workplace and campus to support initiatives that improve health and wellness for all.

### Self-Care

Empowering people to identify their own needs.

### Spiritual Health

Being mindful of each person's spiritual needs.

### Physical Health

Embracing nutrition, fitness, activity and sleep as components of the whole person.

### Financial Health

Helping people navigate the complex financial landscape through referrals and advocacy.

### Mental Health

Connecting people with the programs and resources they need to maintain a state of well-being.

### Environmental Health

Providing information and screenings designed to create healthier surroundings at work and at home.

**Whole Health** is empowering people to discover, receive and participate in care for their body, mind, spirit and environment within and through their communities.

HSC recognizes and works with communities toward these seven components of Whole Health.

# WHOLE HEALTH



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