

From Thomas Bacon, DPh, Chair of the Council, and David Yoder, PhD, Executive Director:

The Council of Allied Health in North Carolina has been in place since 1991. Since its inception, the Council has been successful in achieving goals within its mission **to ensure that North Carolinians will have access to a well-prepared and well-distributed allied health workforce.** We have established, with the Sheps Center for Health Services Research, a model database of supply and demand information on the allied health workforce in North Carolina. A Council initiative in 1994 resulted in General Assembly funding for the expansion of personnel preparation programs in Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology. The graduates of these expanded programs entered the workforce in 1998 and provided much needed relief in workforce shortages in those respective disciplines throughout the state. The Council further served as a forum for facilitation of advancement of school-based Speech-Language Pathologists to Master's level preparation by way of distance education.

We see the future of the Council as continuing in this positive direction. Our optimistic view is reflected in the Council's unique multidisciplinary approach to health care and cooperative leadership among the practitioners, employers and educators who make up its membership. Through a grant from the Duke Endowment, the Council has hired its first Executive Director and established an office of the Council. We invite you to learn more about allied health and the many issues that face us as we seek to meet the future healthcare needs of North Carolina citizens. The Council meets in Chapel Hill bimonthly on the first Wednesday beginning the year in January and meetings are open to the public. We also invite you to click on our new website at <http://www.alliedhealthcouncilNC.org/>, which will provide more information about the Council.



The Council for Allied Health in North Carolina
CB# 7335, TR# 48
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7335
Tel. 919-843-6176 FAX. 919-843-3250
Email: info@alliedhealthcouncilNC.org
Web: <http://www.alliedhealthcouncilNC.org>

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