

MEMORANDUM

TO: LSU Health New Orleans Faculty, Staff, Administrators, and Students

FROM: Demetrius J. Porche, DNS, PhD, PCC, ANEF, FANP, FAAN
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs 

DATE: September 11, 2026

RE: **School of Allied Health Professions Renamed as the School of Health Professions**

I am pleased to announce an important milestone in the continued evolution of Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans. Following approval by the Louisiana Board of Supervisors on April 23, 2026, and subsequent approval by the Louisiana Board of Regents, the **School of Allied Health Professions has been renamed the School of Health Professions**. This change was effective August 26, 2026.

This name change reflects the School of Health Professions' distinguished history and the breadth, sophistication, and future direction of the school's academic, clinical, research, and service missions. Over several decades, the school has evolved from an institution providing education in the traditional allied health professions to a comprehensive academic enterprise encompassing a diverse portfolio of academic degree programs, interdisciplinary clinical services, innovative research, and extensive community partnerships. The School of Health Professions is home to seven academic departments including Communication Disorders (Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology), Cardiopulmonary Science (Cardiovascular Sonography & Respiratory Therapy), Counseling, Medical Laboratory Science, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Physician Assistant Studies. Additionally, the school also houses the Human Development Center, which is Louisiana's federally designated University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). Together, these departments represent the scope and depth of a school that has grown into a leading institution in health professions education, research, clinical service, and community partnership.

Designation as the **School of Health Professions** accurately represents the school's current comprehensive health profession structure and positions the school for continued growth and leadership. Several considerations informed this transition. First, LSU Health New Orleans and peer institutions across the country recognize that the term *Health Professions* more fully identifies the advanced education, specialized expertise, professional autonomy, and contributions of the disciplines represented within the school, while also reflecting their vital role in advancing health care, health outcomes, and workforce development. Today's health care environment increasingly depends upon collaborative, interprofessional teams working together to improve patient outcomes, advance population health, and address workforce needs across diverse practice settings. The school's new name reflects the integral roles its professions play across the continuum of health promotion, disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and patient-centered care.

Other academic institutions nationally have increasingly adopted the term *Health Professions* in recent years to better reflect the broad range of disciplines preparing professionals for contemporary health care practice. LSU Health New Orleans, LSU System, and State leaders agree that this terminology best represents the evolving nature and expanding scope of health professions education.

As one of six schools comprising LSU Health New Orleans, the School of Health Professions is an essential partner in advancing interprofessional education and collaborative practice across the institution and with the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Public Health, and Graduate Studies. Finally, the broader identity supports interdisciplinary research, educational innovation, collaboration across schools and institutions, and opportunities to develop external partnerships and secure research and programmatic support.

While the school's name is changing, its fundamental commitments remain steadfast. The School of Health Professions will continue to advance its mission of educating and empowering the future health professions workforce, realize its vision of transforming health through education, research, scholarship, clinical excellence, and community impact, and achieve the goals and strategies of the School of Health Professions' strategic plan.

Our commitment to academic excellence, student accessibility, workforce development, innovative research and scholarship, clinical excellence, community impact, leadership, and professional stewardship remain unwavering in our service to Louisiana and beyond.

Over the coming months, LSU Health New Orleans and the school will update websites, branding, publications, marketing and recruitment materials, institutional communications, signage, and other resources to reflect the new name. **The implementation process will occur in phases to ensure continuity across academic, clinical, administrative, accreditation, compliance, and external-facing operations.** Faculty and staff will receive additional guidance regarding the appropriate use of the school's new name and updated logo in official documents, academic materials, email signatures, presentations, websites, grant and scholarly materials, and other communications as implementation proceeds. During this transition, members of our community may encounter both the former and new names in various systems and documents. This is expected as institutional resources will be systematically updated.

In summary, this rebrand positions the School of Health Professions to more effectively communicate its impact, strengthen recruitment efforts, enhance national visibility, expand interdisciplinary collaborations, and support continued growth in education, research, clinical practice, and community engagement. We look forward to the continued accomplishments, excellence, and successes of the School of Health Professions faculty, staff, and students as we embark on this new chapter together.

I extend my appreciation to Dean Erin M. Dugan, PhD, the School of Health Professions faculty, staff, students, alumni, clinical partners, and stakeholders whose vision, leadership, and commitment have contributed to this significant milestone. Please join me in recognizing and celebrating the **School of Health Professions at LSU Health New Orleans** and this significant new chapter in its history.