

March 4, 2021

Dear CAPCSD Members,

I hope this letter finds you all well. It's that time of year when so many things are happening in our programs. I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of the "going ons" with CAPCSD and the ways we can support your programs.

CSDCAS Admissions: For many programs, this finds you in the thick of your admissions process. So far this year, over 12,500 applicants have submitted over 43,000 applications through CSDCAS. We have seen a 4% average increase in SLP applications per program and an 8% average increase in AuD applications per program, when compared to this time last year. While we are not back to the level of applications per program that we saw two years ago, we are glad to be on an upward trend. The CSDCAS community has grown to include over 70% of CSD graduate programs. If you are interested in learning more, please join us for the *Got CSDCAS? Increase Efficiency for Informed Application Decisions with a Centralized Application Service* session as part of our annual conference.

41st Annual Conference, April 8-10: Registration is OPEN and early-bird registration is available until **Friday, March 12th**. The theme for this year's program is ***Beyond Innovation: Challenge to Change***. Click [HERE](#) for the conference webpage where you can register and review the sessions.

What's different about this year's conference is that we are 100% virtual. What hasn't changed is a program that is rich and varied with topics of interest for everyone – whether your focus is clinical, academic, or administrative. Your hard-working conference planning committee has put together unique and exciting sessions that I know will provide you with relevant information as we all navigate moving ahead in this time of the pandemic.

You will find many interesting and motivating sessions throughout the program for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, so take the time to peruse carefully and identify topics that will enrich your knowledge. Sessions cover topics like facilitating holistic admissions in graduate programs, how AuD clinical faculty integrated virtual clinical training during a pandemic, budget basics, personal wellness in preventing burn-out, and the relationship between student perceptions of their cultural identity and perceived abilities to meet essential

functions. Join us for Friday's plenary session *A Framework for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion* presented by CAPCSD's newly formed DEI Task force in response to the nationwide cries against racial injustice.

Online Professional Development: We built them and you came. Last spring, CAPCSD began offering webinars in response to universities closing and the shift to virtual everything. The webinars continue under the tireless direction of Mark DeRuiter and the committee. Offerings include podcasts, live webinars, and on-demand courses. Information on upcoming webinars and links to register are available [HERE](#).

Be sure to check out the new look of the clinical education eLearning courses. Reminder - these are resources developed by experts and are available to you and your clinical educators, supervisors, and preceptors at no charge. Access is easy and no codes are required. The direct link to the courses is available for all members when they [login](#) to their membership at the top of the InfoHub landing page. Visit the [eLearning webpage](#) for updates and a dissemination toolkit to assist you with distributing access information for the courses.

New Election Process for Board Officers: As mentioned in earlier communications, CAPCSD has a new process to elect board officers. Applicants are vetted and interviewed by the nomination committee and recommendations are given to the Board for approval. This year's slate for President-elect and Secretary will be announced at the spring business meeting and program directors will receive a ballot to vote by email after the conference. Thanks to all of you who applied. We continue to seek diversity in thought, background, and experiences.

Spring Business Meeting: We want to hear from you! Please join us for a live virtual business meeting on **Wednesday, April 7th, 5:00 p.m. ET**, for a chance to talk with board members. CAPCSD members will receive an email with a link to register to attend the virtual meeting. A recording will be available one week after the meeting on the CAPCSD website.

Board Meeting Minutes: You don't have to wait for status reports and business meetings to follow the work of your board. Did you know that minutes from board meetings, as well as governance documents and status reports, are available on the [website](#)? You can also contact board members at any time with comments and questions.

Work of the Committees and Volunteers: As always, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to all of our many volunteers, committee chairs, and committee members. I would like to highlight the work of the Distance Education Committee. The committee recently sent a survey to the members to learn about CSD faculty perceptions of, and experiences with, distance education - both during the pandemic and beyond. The committee will share the results of the survey at the conference. Visit the CAPCSD [website](#) to see all of the committees and their members.

Scholarship Program: Graduate student applications for the Plural Publishing, Frances J. Laven, and Ph.D. scholarships are being reviewed and CAPCSD looks forward to announcing the results in April.

New Affiliate Member Programs: We welcome the affiliate member programs that joined CAPCSD this year: Austin Peay State University, DeSales University, D'Youville University, Piedmont College, The University of Sranton, Trine University, and Viterbo University.

On behalf of CAPCSD's Board of Directors, I wish you a happy and productive spring semester. We look forward to interacting with you at the virtual conference and spring business meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol C. Dudding". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light gray rectangular background.

Carol C. Dudding, President
CAPCSD Board of Directors
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