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Newark, DE 19713  
Phone: 302-831-8370

TO: University of Delaware Faculty Senate  
From: Kathleen S. Matt, PhD – Dean  
DATE: October 25, 2018

Dear Members of the Faculty Senate,

I write to affirm my enthusiastic support for permanent status of the master's program in speech-language pathology. This program was created to address the tremendous need for speech –language pathologists in Delaware schools and a severe dearth of licensed speech-language pathologists in the state. Our first cohort of 26 graduated in May of 2018 and 7 of the graduates are now practicing in Delaware.

Our partnership with then Governors Minner and Markell, then Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn, and current Representatives Valerie Longhurst and Nicole Poore was key for their request that CHS move forward with proposing a curriculum and developing a budget support request for launching this program.

Our projections show that the program has exceeded expectations and has already become self-sustaining, with profits accruing that will be used for equipment maintenance and replacement costs. Financial support from the state for the first five years of program operation has been absolutely essential.

We are appreciative of initial approval by the Faculty Senate, which allowed us to proceed with the request to the state to financially support the program, and we request approval for permanent status so the partnership with the state can continue.

This program has already helped to answer the demand from students in the state wanting to pursue this professional track, and has begun to meet the need for speech pathologist in the state—and we are committed to growing the impact of this program in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathleen S. Matt'.

Kathleen S. Matt, PhD  
Dean, College of Health Sciences  
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