Our Mission is to enhance human health and quality of life through education, research and outreach in food and nutrition sciences

Our Vision is to lead the integration of food and nutrition sciences using learner-centered educational environments, collaborative research, and knowledge dissemination through outreach

Our Goals are to:

- Promote health through food, nutrition and lifestyle
- Design and deliver relevant, high quality curricular offerings to optimize student learning and enrollment
- Achieve global recognition for excellence in our signature areas
- Integrate appropriate, cutting edge technologies that advance our mission
- Promote trans-disciplinary research
- Advance a culture of diversity, social justice and equality
- Enhance personal connections with our alumni, friends and stakeholders

Our Signature Areas are:

1. **Education of dietetics professionals.** Translate nutrition and food science research in teaching and learning. Prepare high quality nutrition professionals to deliver education and outreach about clinical and community nutrition and the role of food in health and wellness.

2. **Etiology and prevention of obesity and chronic disease.** Investigate the role of nutrition in obesity, diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Explore underlying mechanisms that impact these conditions such as inflammation, altered gene expression and cellular metabolism. Identify and modify human behavioral characteristics that influence these diseases.

3. **Green technologies for food and fuel.** Develop environmentally friendly and sustainable processes to utilize grain and other agriculture products for food, biofuels and bioproducts. Develop novel technologies to increase the value of agricultural products and byproducts.

4. **Bioactive compounds for health and wellness.** Identify, optimize and deliver health promoting bioactive compounds from plant and animal sources. Explore mechanisms of action including genetic, molecular and cellular targets for bioactive compounds.

5. **Safety and quality of foods.** Apply novel technologies to enhance microbial, chemical and toxicological safety of the food supply. Understand the impact of these technologies on the flavor and texture of foods.
Our five-year priorities are:

- Increase the number of students enrolled in and graduating from FSHN undergraduate and graduate majors and minors, and enrollment in courses for non-majors that enhance life skills, through focused efforts in curriculum development and recruitment. Foster excellence in mentoring of students in research and provide opportunities for professional development. Enhance efforts to recruit and retain culturally diverse students.

- Expand innovative consumer and professional continuing education with a focus on health sciences, dietetics and food science professions. Identify specific opportunities in distance education programs through a targeted evaluation of our programs and society to determine needs and opportunities. Expand our participation in Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GP IDEA) programs.

- Provide infrastructure and support to obtain extramural funding for research, expand a diversified funding base and increase federal support. Increase efforts and support development of interdisciplinary projects that incorporate our strengths in food and nutrition sciences, and take the lead on trans-disciplinary projects.

- Promote our accomplishments to further enhance our research and scholarly reputation of integrating food and nutrition sciences. Increase our communication efforts to report and disseminate this information which will enhance student recruitment and the national and international recognition of our programs.

- Assist in economic development of the food and health industries through educational outreach, extension programs and established relationships with industry partners. Share information with industry through symposia and meetings, and support the activities of the Center for Crops Utilization Research, BioCentury Research Farm, Midwest Grape and Wine Industry Institute and Nutrition and Wellness Research Center.

- Foster increased collaboration with colleagues in the food and health care industries, and alumni to enhance visibility of our programs, provide professional opportunities for students and generate financial support from donors.

- Enhance international efforts in targeted regions: India, China-Korea-Japan, Europe, and Africa. Develop exchange programs for students and faculty, and foster interdisciplinary research projects to apply food science and nutrition technologies to address global problems.