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Metropolitan State University of Denver Letter of Intent *Donor Name*

Introduction

Metropolitan State University of Denver's (MSU Denver) Department of Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences seeks support from *Donor Name* to support the launch of an inclusive graduate program in speech-language pathology committed to the interprofessional education and cultural responsiveness of students seeking clinical certification through scholarship support and wrap-around services. The Department also seeks support for the induction of a *Program Name*, designed to serve the Metro Denver area and foster community-based clinical training experiences for Master of Science in Speech and Language Pathology (SLP) graduate students.

MSU Denver Background and History

Initially started as an opportunity school, MSU Denver has a long tradition of providing education to individuals who may otherwise be excluded from higher education. MSU Denver is the leader in diverse enrollment among Colorado's four-year universities; by recruiting students intentionally, the University has ensured that the student population mirrors the ethnic demographics of the state. In March of 2019, MSU Denver qualified as a Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) and gained the designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). MSU Denver enrolls the highest number of first generation and students of color of all four-year institutions in Colorado. Throughout its 50-year history, MSU Denver has pushed the boundaries of what is possible in higher education. MSU Denver empowers Colorado's students to advance their lives and careers through high-quality, real-world education taught by noted academics, national experts, and industry professionals. MSU Denver alumni power the state economy with 95,000 work-ready graduates, of whom more than 80% live and work in Colorado.

Programmatic Information

Program Name

Program will provide M.S. SLP students with a unique opportunity to bridge coursework in language and literacy with its practical application. As speech-language pathologists must demonstrate competency in identifying and preventing communication disorders and differences across the lifespan, MSU Denver students will gain essential clinical skills as they support parents and caregivers in improving emergent literacy and language skills in young children. The M.S. SLP program's optional concentration in bilingual service provision would allow for graduate students fluent in Spanish to support monolingual or bilingual families participating in the program in the Metro-Denver community.

Master of Science in Speech and Language Pathology

To better meet Colorado's workforce shortages, MSU Denver has expanded in the last decade to offer master's degrees in Business Administration, Professional Accountancy, Health



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Administration, Social Work, Teaching, Cybersecurity, Human Nutrition and Dietetics, and Science in Clinical Behavioral Health. In June 2021, MSU Denver's M.S. SLP received candidacy status by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. This graduate program will build on the strength of MSU Denver's current baccalaureate program and extend the ability to prepare MSU Denver students for fulfilling careers by providing the requisite degree for entry in the field. As the program is the only Minority Serving Institute in Colorado that offers an SLP graduate program, with an option for specialization in bilingual service provision, it will support diversifying the speech-language pathology workforce and reducing health disparities in minority populations with communication disorders and differences.

Closing

MSU Denver would be honored to partner with *Donor Name* to achieve further equity in speech-language pathology graduate education and to support Metro Denver's families in language and literacy skills. Please contact *MSU Denver Contact* at *email* or *phone number* with any questions or requests for additional information.

Sincerely,

MSU Denver Contact