

Graduate Training at Foothills Correctional Institution

The ASU Scottish Rite Communication Disorders Clinic has a longstanding relationship with the NC Department of Public Safety to provide speech-language pathology (SLP) services at Foothills Correctional Institution (FCI) in Morganton. These services are delivered as part of the Exceptional Students Program of the Division of Adult and Juvenile Justice. This program seeks to help offenders become responsible, productive citizens who can effectively manage their incarceration and contribute to the community upon their release.

Kristin Crawford, M.A., CCC-SLP has served as our Clinical Educator at FCI since 2014. In that role, she provides SLP services to offenders while mentoring graduate clinicians from the ASU SLP master's program. Recently, Kristin was able to expand her services to several additional prisons across the state of NC using telehealth technology. Thus, graduate students who are assigned to Kristin receive intensive training in a unique clinical environment and also gain experience in the application of telehealth service delivery.

Kristin's first experience with FCI occurred in 1996 when she was assigned there as a graduate student enrolled in ASU master's program. It was during this graduate experience that she developed a sense of purpose and vision for serving the unique population at FCI. Several years later, she returned to FCI as a clinical educator, thereby coming full circle in her professional journey.

Kristin takes tremendous pride in her work, as reflected by the following quote:

I strive everyday to work with those who many have thrown away and long since forgotten. The correlation between incarceration and receptive/ expressive language delays is huge. These deficits have created a gap that is far too wide for one SLP to fill. I am grateful to have graduate students helping me navigate through these obstacles. As a clinical educator, I am providing our clients with my best, as well as the expertise of the finest graduate clinicians.

- Kristin Crawford, Clinical Educator



Clinical Educator Kristin Crawford (left) demonstrates the operation of telehealth equipment at the Foothills Correctional Institution as graduate students Brooke Ridings (center) and Valerie Suchecki (right) observe.

We offer our sincere appreciation for the continued support of the Scottish Rite, without which we could not fulfill our mission.