PeaceHealth
Sacred Heart Medical Center

Administration
University District

October 20, 2017

Kara A. Witzke, PH.D.
Assistant Dean
OSU Cascades
1500 Chandler Ave.
Bend, OR 97702

Dear Dr. Witzke and other interested parties,

I am writing this letter in support of the OSU-Cascades proposed online RN-BSN program. There are no traditional BSN programs in the Eugene/Springfield area and one, private, RN-BSN program. PeaceHealth is actively supporting caregivers in obtaining BSNs, with a goal of reaching an 80% or greater BSN rate, in alignment with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) 2020 goals.

The lack of traditional learning BSN programs in Eugene necessitates an online option. The OSU-Cascades program would give our nursing workforce a choice in considering online, in-state public university options. As the Chief Nursing Officer at Sacred Heart Medical Center-University District, I am writing this letter to demonstrate my specific support for the proposed Oregon State University's New Undergraduate Degree Program Proposal: RN to BSN Nursing Degree to advance the educational opportunities of the professional nursing workforce in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Ben Farber, DNP, RN, CNL, NEA-BC, CENP
Chief Nursing Officer
Sacred Heart Medical Center at University District

770 E. 11th Ave., Eugene, OR 97401
peacehealth.org/sacred-heart-university district

541 341-3040 Desk