PeaceHealth
Sacred Heart Medical Center

Administration
RiverBend campus

October 27, 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 proposed OSU-Cascades online RN to BSN program. This is a critical time for both the nursing industry and healthcare industry. We are facing growing levels of complexities in the healthcare sector while we also navigate ongoing change. The stage is set for us to support programs that ensure our nurses are trained at the highest level to account for these factors.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) recommends a goal of increasing to 80% of nurses with bachelor's degrees by 2020 to prepare for sicker patients and to navigate new technologies. Moreover, studies have shown that hospitals with higher percentages of RNs with baccalaureate degrees have better patient outcomes.

With all that in mind, we are disadvantaged as the opportunities for RNs to pursue advanced degrees are limited if not non-existent.

Additionally, our journey to become a Magnet hospital, involves actively supporting caregivers in their pursuit of BSNs. This journey requires us to meet the IOM's 2020 goals as I identified above.

That being said, the lack of traditional BSN programs in the Springfield/Eugene market calls for us to support online opportunities. The OSU-Cascades program would give our nursing workforce a choice in considering online, in-state public university options.

Please consider this letter as a full endorsement of this online opportunity.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Kelly, RN, BSN, MBA
Chief Nursing Officer
PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend