September 11, 2017

CENTRAL OREGON
community college

Kara A. Witzke, Ph.D., FACSM
Assistant Dean
OSU-Cascades
1500 SW Chandler Ave.
Bend, Oregon 97702

Dear Dr. Witzke,

I am writing this letter in support of the creation of the OSU-Cascades RN to BSN Nursing program. As you know, our Central Oregon Community College (COCC) Nursing students receive an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Nursing. Students sit for their NCLEX exam upon completion of our program. Upon successfully passing their exam and becoming licensed, they can immediately go to work as an RN or go on to school to complete their BSN. Many health care employers are now requiring their nurses to either have a BSN upon hire or be able to obtain it within a certain period of time after being hired.

As you can imagine, our students are quite excited that OSU-Cascades will be providing a quality, affordable option to them to complete their BSN degree. They are appreciative that they can either take online classes part-time while working as an RN or take classes as a full-time student. The online delivery method is desirable as it provides needed scheduling flexibility that so many students seek, especially those that are working as a Nurse and/or have a family and choose not to leave Central Oregon to further their education.

We look forward to the start of your program and thank you for providing this option for our students to stay local and still receive their BSN degree from a reputable and respected University.

Sincerely,

Julie J. Downing

Julie J. Downing, Ph.D., FACSM
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