Oregon State University
Cascades

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4/6/18

Jerri Bartholomew, Chair
College of Science, Dept of Microbiology
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331

Dear Dr. Bartholomew,

Nationally, there is a growing need for bachelor's trained nurses in our healthcare workforce. The attached Executive Summary and New Program Proposal provides justification for Oregon's first state-funded RN to BSN nursing program, offered by OSU-Cascades in collaboration with Oregon State University's Ecampus.

OSU-Cascades was approached several years ago by St. Charles Healthcare System, our local hospital in Central Oregon and our local community college, Central Oregon Community College, to develop a program that would provide a pipeline for newly minted RNs as well as working nurses to obtain their bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN). This proposal is in direct response to our local need for highly trained nurses, but the fully online nature of the program will also provide access to all licensed nurses in Oregon with an affordable pathway to advance their careers. As a fully online program through Ecampus and OSU-Cascades, there are no anticipated negative curricular impacts on OSU in Corvallis.

As an OSU College that may have an interest in this program, we are seeking your support for this program. I have included the Executive Summary and the program proposal in it's entirely for your review and response. Your comments can be brief and may be sent to me directly. If you wish to discuss this program further or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: 541-322-2063 or at kara.witzke@osucascades.edu.

Your response before next Friday, April 13, if possible, is most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kara A. Witzke
Interim Assistant Dean
Oregon State University-Cascades