

March 6, 2018

Tracy Morstad, MSN, RN, CCRN, PNH
Director of Nursing
Minnesota State Community and Technical College
1414 College Way
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Dear Mrs. Morstad:

The National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA) Board of Commissioners met on February 26-27, 2018 to review the pre-accreditation candidacy applications received during the November 2017 submission cycle.

We are pleased to inform you that the NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners voted that pre-accreditation status be **granted** for the following program:

Practical/Vocational Nursing Program (system wide)

The pre-accreditation status is effective for three years, beginning February 27, 2018 and terminating February 26, 2021.

This action was taken based upon evidence supporting a reasonable conclusion that the program will be able to demonstrate full compliance with the standards within the allotted three year pre-accreditation time frame. As stated in the NLN CNEA's Pre-Accreditation Candidacy Policy, the granting of pre-accreditation status **does not guarantee that a program will be accredited by the NLN CNEA**. Upon application for initial accreditation by NLN CNEA, programs will be expected to demonstrate full compliance with the NLN CNEA Standards of Accreditation.

The program will have a **maximum of three years within which to complete the accreditation process (including Board of Commissioner action) and achieve initial accreditation with the NLN CNEA. Failure to complete the process within the three year window outlined in this letter may result in termination of the program's pre-accreditation status**. Programs may voluntarily withdraw from NLN CNEA pre-accreditation status upon formal request from the chief academic nurse administrator.

As per NLN CNEA policy, the NLN CNEA reserves the right to terminate the pre-accreditation status of any program under the following conditions:

- 1) Accreditation status of the governing institution changes;
- 2) State regulatory status of the nursing program changes; or
- 3) Other substantive institutional or program changes occur affecting the stability of the nursing program.

NLN CNEA requires that programs notify NLN CNEA **within sixty days of the change in status**, if any of the above conditions occur. Failure to notify NLN CNEA of program changes

of the nature listed above and within the stipulated time frame may also lead to termination of the program's accreditation status.

Programs may choose to publicly disclose their NLN CNEA pre-accreditation status. For programs choosing to publicly disclose their pre-accreditation status, they must use the following public statement:

“The Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Practical/Vocational Nursing Program holds pre-accreditation status from the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation, located at 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20037. Holding pre-accreditation status does not guarantee that initial accreditation by NLN CNEA will be received.”

Programs holding NLN CNEA pre-accreditation status are eligible to apply for initial program accreditation with NLN CNEA. Initial accreditation may be pursued at any time within the three year pre-accreditation candidacy window of opportunity but must be timed so that all steps of the accreditation process, including CNEA Board of Commissioner action, are completed within the three year timeline. It is the responsibility of the chief academic nurse administrator to determine the appropriate time for the program(s) to pursue initial accreditation based upon a program self-assessment which indicates the capacity to demonstrate compliance with the NLN CNEA Standards of Accreditation. The program should notify NLN CNEA of their intent to proceed with seeking initial accreditation no earlier than 6 months and no later than 12 months prior to the time of scheduling an on-site program evaluation visit. Please review the NLN CNEA Initial Accreditation Policy for further details and contact NLN CNEA staff for any additional information on applying for initial accreditation.

Congratulations on achieving pre-accreditation status with NLN CNEA. If you have any questions about the accreditation process, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Judith A. Halstead, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN
Executive Director

Cc: Peggy Kennedy, EdD, President
Shirley Brekken, MS, RN, Executive Director, Minnesota Board of Nursing
Robert Rucker, Research and Advocacy Coordinator for Legal and
Governmental Affairs, The Higher Learning Commission
Cathleen Shultz, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN, Chair, NLN CNEA Board of
Commissioners