



## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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December 12, 2008

Dr. Willis N. Holcombe, Chancellor  
Division of Community Colleges  
Florida Department of Education  
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1314  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

RE: Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program Proposal

Dear Dr. Holcombe:

I became the President of Manatee Community College on July 1, 2008 and followed by a period of administrative transition I coordinated activities with the Manatee Community College District Board of Trustees to initiate baccalaureate degree programs. On September 17, 2008 the Board gave unanimous approval to the issuance of a letter of intent to pursue the baccalaureate proposal for one or more of several disciplines included in the letter. MCC, because of overwhelming community need to have an immediate program offering has focused just on the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). On December 9, 2008 the District Board of Trustees voted to send the Bachelor of Science in Nursing proposal package forward to you in hopes that we will be considered at your next meeting and be approved.

Because of the urgent need to address the growing demand for this program, I along with the MCC District Board of Trustees and the Sarasota Legislative Delegation urge you to review the proposal for inclusion with the balance of the current year's community college applications for baccalaureate program approval.

As part of the proposal development process, a team of MCC employees conducted the workforce need and program demand analysis. The team surveyed working RNs, nursing students and pre-nursing students in the nursing career pathway. It also surveyed health care employers and received letters of support from all seven major hospitals in Manatee and Sarasota counties. There was significant agreement on the level of demand for the BSN program among all surveyed groups. Letters of support from the CEOs and Chief Nursing Officers estimated a minimum of 520 working RNs in their facilities who would likely participate in the BSN at MCC over the next five years. More importantly, working RNs and current nursing students want to begin their studies promptly. More than 220 respondents would start as soon as possible and another 200+ would begin their studies within the next year or two.

The BSN program at MCC is designed to coordinate with local health care leaders to make sure that the key competencies required of nursing staff for safe and efficient patient care are infused throughout the upper division curriculum. The program is sensitive to work and family

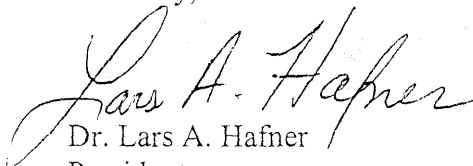
prerequisites are satisfied, the upper division course sequencing allows participants to complete their BSN in as few as 15 months.

Since there are no statutory deadlines for the application process, I urge you to proceed with the review of this proposal for inclusion in your recommendation for approval to the Florida legislature in early 2009. Forward funding and local financial support will allow the program to begin as early as January 2010. It is estimated that the first cohort of students will graduate in the second year of the program and that 66 RNs will receive a BSN degree every year thereafter. As the program grows, it will further reduce the considerable and constantly growing demand for BSN education in the region.

The local legislative delegation and the Board of Trustees wholeheartedly support this program to start as soon as possible. The demand for the program is great and it has the endorsement of the health care leadership in Manatee and Sarasota counties and the University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 941-752-5201.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lars A. Hafner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Dr. Lars A. Hafner

President

Manatee Community College