

# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Action Item

March 17, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Request for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at Manatee Community College

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### PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

### AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1007.33, Florida Statutes

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In December 2008, the Department of Education received a Letter of Intent from Manatee Community College regarding their plans to develop a BSN degree program, followed by a program proposal submitted to the Department of Education. Per a memorandum dated January 6, 2009, Dr. Willis N. Holcombe, Chancellor of the Division of Community Colleges, provided appropriate written notification of intent to Dr. John Delaney, Florida Board of Governors/State University System; Dr. Ed Moore, President, Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida; and Mr. Samuel Ferguson, Executive Director, Commission for Independent Education. *No alternative proposal has been received from any Florida postsecondary institution.* An extensive internal and external review of the proposal was conducted during January-February 2009 by a cross-divisional team, and written comments and recommendations were provided to the college. The college responded to the recommendations and submitted a revised proposal which meets all of the criteria/requirements in law for approval.

- Using state and federal databases and reports as well as the minutes of the local Nursing Consortium for Education and Collaboration (the Consortium), a Manatee Community College Steering Committee researched industry needs and current educational resources to determine the demand for BSN graduates. A Planning Team provided coordination for surveying both unmet industry needs and demand for the program among current and future RN license holders as well as input for curriculum content.
- USF-Tampa offers upper division nursing courses on a semester-by-semester basis at USF Sarasota/Manatee, but there has been no permanent, comprehensive program implemented by the Sarasota/Manatee campus in Sarasota and Manatee counties despite a 2 + 2 partnership in place since 2004.
- The Florida Center for Nursing (Oct. 2008), indicates a vacancy rate of approximately 3,000 registered nurse positions for Florida's Southwest Region, which includes Manatee and Sarasota counties, --with 353 average annual openings in Manatee/Sarasota counties alone, 658 in Hillsborough county, 489 in Pinellas county, and over 200 additional openings in neighboring DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands and Polk counties.

