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Macias, Wendy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 4:01 PM
To: [REDACTED]; negreg09; [REDACTED]
Subject: US Department of Education
Attachments: Scan001.pdf

As Requested.

[REDACTED]
Administrative Assistant

Chamberlain College of Nursing

[REDACTED]



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College of Nursing

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 4:33 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letters to US Department of Education

Dear campus leaders,

As many of you know, the US Department of Education is at the very beginning stages of forming teams of education experts to discuss and draft rules relative to recent changes to the Higher Education Act. To prepare for this process, more commonly known as negotiated rulemaking, the Department has held a series of hearing aimed at engaging the public in this process. For those unable to attend the hearings, the Department has encouraged submission of written comments.

We would like to enlist your help in communicating the vital contribution of our students and institutions. To that end, attached are email drafts, one specific to your institution, that we would like your help completing and sending. We request that by **4pm Central tomorrow**, you complete the attached draft to include vital information and context specific to your students and campus location. Once complete, please email your signed and completed draft on your campus specific letterhead to neqreg09@ed.gov and copy [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. When rounding out your draft, **please be sure to address all areas highlighted in yellow.**

Thank you for your partnership in providing the Department with the most complete picture of our students and institutions. Again, please submit your signed letter, on campus-specific letterhead, **no later than tomorrow, 6.23.09 at 4pm Central.**

Please do not hesitate in contacting me or Helena should you have any questions.

Thank you.



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Ms. Wendy Macias
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, N.W. Room 8017
Washington, DC 20006

June 23, 2009

Sent via Electronic Mail: negreg09@ed.gov

Dear Ms. Macias:

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Chamberlain College of Nursing – Florida, thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments concerning the forthcoming negotiated rulemaking process. As a new campus, I feel that it is important for me to express to you what Chamberlain is bringing to the northeast Florida – southeast Georgia communities.

Chamberlain College of Nursing has a rich tradition of excellence and innovation. Specializing in high-quality nursing programs for over 120 years, we educate knowledgeable, caring and clinically proficient registered nurses. Our graduates help to alleviate the ever growing nursing shortage by practicing the profession in varied health care settings and by serving as nurse educators.

We strongly support that students attending all accredited institutions of higher education, regardless of an institution's public, private not-for-profit or proprietary status, be availed the resources and equal opportunity to attend the institution of their choice. If the United States is to emerge from the current economic downturn, it will require all sectors of education and multiple access and engagement points for a diverse array of students.

Chamberlain also heeds the Department's and Obama Administration's call to address the academic progress of American students from cradle to career. For most, but especially first time, first-generation students, discovering tangible college pathways is key to attaining educational success.

Chamberlain College of Nursing selected its Jacksonville, Florida site for many reasons, particularly to assist in meeting the area's needs for Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree graduates. In January 2009, the Florida Center for Nursing released its *2008 Nursing Education Program Annual Report and Workforce Survey*. The Center's study found that, while graduates from pre-licensure RN program increased by 24% between Academic Years (AY) 2006-2007 and AY 2007-2008, none of the growth was attributed to BSN programs. All growth occurred among Associate Degree nursing programs (ADNs). While the need for technical nurses (ADNs) is being met, the need for BSN graduates is not growing as



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needed to meet the nursing shortage in FL that is forecast for 2010 at 18,419 FTEs ballooning over 3 times that number to 52,209 FTEs by 2020. The Center identified the level of increase in enrollments needed to resolve the shortage by 2020 to be no less than 15%. With the current programs located in the Jacksonville area, such increases will not happen without new colleges opening BSN programs in the area.

Perhaps more importantly, the same Florida Center for Nursing Report indicated that **50.2%** of *qualified applicants* were turned away because there were not enough seats available within area nursing programs. Indeed, those nursing programs have established waiting lists that are years long. If choice of institution was restricted in any way, such qualified applicants will never enter the workplace as professional registered nurses.

Lastly, I would share with you that I have been a nurse educator since 1974. I have taught in diploma, associate degree, and bachelor's degree nursing programs. The organizations for whom I have taught have been public, private, not-for-profit and for-profit. The states in which the programs have been located include Connecticut, Wisconsin, Utah, and, at present, Florida. I am able to assure you without reservation that Chamberlain offers more support and resources to students than any that I have seen in my many years of experience. Chamberlain has found the balance between providing a student an opportunity to fail and a chance to succeed. Today's college students include those who have earned a GED, raised a family, are returning to the workforce, and changing careers. Choice of educational institutions is an absolute necessity so students can find one that meets the needs of not only themselves, but also their families and communities.

In closing, I take the opportunity to again thank you for your review of my comments. I am passionate about nursing education, and a fierce advocate for students. Without equal support and resources to students regardless of accredited institution chosen, academic progress of U.S. citizens from cradle to career will be stymied, particularly in the area of professional nursing.

Sincerely,

