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Macias, Wendy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 7:38 PM
To: negreg09
Subject: Comments to Higher Learning Education Act
Attachments: CCN 6-23-09 Letter to W. Macias.doc

Attached please find my letter in response to the upcoming rule changes to the Higher Learning Act.



CHAMBERLAIN
College of Nursing

"With everything that has happened, you can either feel sorry for yourself or treat what has happened as a gift. Everything is either an opportunity to grow or an obstacle to keep you from growing. You get to choose."





CHAMBERLAIN
College of Nursing

Sent via Electronic Mail: negreg09@ed.gov

June 23, 2009

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

Dear Ms. Macias:

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Chamberlain College of Nursing – Illinois, thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments concerning the forthcoming negotiated rulemaking process.

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.



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Ms. Wendy Macias

June 23, 2009

Our campus in Illinois is well positioned, with its Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, to help the State address the shortage of nurses which is projected to be approximately 3,000 each year during the next five years. This gap exists despite the fact that the State of Illinois has 123 nursing schools. The number of caregivers, including nurses, is projected to decrease 4.2 percent between 2000 and 2020, while the number of those who need care is projected to increase by 31 percent. In spite of these dramatic figures, nursing schools in Illinois continue to have to turn away qualified candidates because of lack of resources.

We believe we are doing our part to help address the nursing shortage. Our students have a choice to attend our institution. If that choice to attend Chamberlain College of Nursing was restricted in any way, the qualified applicants that we are currently attracting to our program will potentially lose the opportunity to become nurses.

I appreciate the fact that you are interested in our comments about this critical situation. We want to continue to serve the citizens of our State by educating highly qualified, professional nurses.

Sincerely,

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