

Agenda Item #14.I.

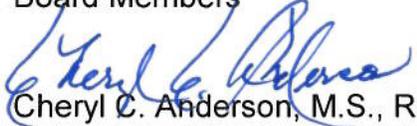


STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, GOVERNOR
BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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DATE: September 1, 2010

TO: Board Members

FROM: 
Cheryl C. Anderson, M.S., R. N.
Supervising Nursing Education Consultant

SUBJECT: Summit Career College, Colton, Vocational Nursing Program –
Reconsideration of Provisional Accreditation
(Director: Dyan Renee Batres, Colton, San Bernardino County, Private)

On February 1, 2008, the Board placed the Summit Career College, Colton, Vocational Nursing Program on provisional accreditation for the two – year period from February 1, 2008, through January 31, 2010, and directed the program be placed on the September 2009 Board agenda for reconsideration of provisional accreditation. That action was taken due to the program's noncompliance with Section 2530 (I) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations, which states:

“The program shall maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates of accredited vocational nursing schools for the same period.

- (1) Failure to maintain the required yearly average minimum pass rate for two years or eight consecutive quarters may be cause to place a program on provisional accreditation.”

On October 7, 2010, the Board extended the program's accreditation for the one – year period from September 17, 2009 through September 30, 2010 and directed the program be scheduled for reconsideration at the September 2010 Board meeting. Additionally, the Board rescinded its approval for ongoing admissions for full – time and part – time classes effective immediately. Prior Board approval was required for the admission of future classes.

History of Prior Board Actions

- In March 1995, the Board approved Summit Career College's request to commence a vocational nursing program on April 3, 1995. The initial class began with 57 students.
- On March 22, 1996, the Board approved full accreditation for the Summit Career College Vocational Nursing Program. Additionally, the Board approved the

program's request to admit a class of 34 students on March 25, 1996, and May 27, 1996. Admissions were contingent upon approval of adequate clinical facilities.

- On May 24, 1996, the Board approved the program's request to admit a class of 34 students on September 23, 1996.
- On November 15, 1996, the Board approved the program's request to admit a class of 34 students on January 6, 1997. The program was directed to submit a plan to reduce attrition and improve the pass rates on the licensure examination.
- On April 4, 1997, the Board approved the program's request to admit a class of 34 students on April 7, 1997. The program was directed to submit a written report addressing faculty hires and terminations, student utilization of the remediation program for each class, an evaluation of students' ability to achieve objectives in the clinical facilities to which they are assigned, and attrition.
- On June 27, 1997, the Board approved the program's request to admit a class of 34 students on August 4, 1997. The program was directed to submit a written report addressing the following factors.
 - a. Faculty Hires;
 - b. Faculty Terminations;
 - c. Utilization of the remediation program per student per class for the period May 1997 through August 1997;
 - d. Evaluation of students' ability to achieve objectives in the clinical facilities to which they are assigned; and
 - e. Attrition.

Additionally, the school was requested to submit a detailed explanation relative to the identification and remediation of students from March 1997 to the present. The school was asked to describe how student vocational nurses are assisted to proficiently and safely perform manual and technical skills within the standards of nursing practice and how student vocational nurses are assisted to safeguard patient/client health and safety.

- On September 19, 1997, the Board approved the program's request to admit a class of 48 students on November 3, 1997. The program was directed to submit a written report by October 3, 1997, addressing faculty hires and terminations for the period September 4, 1997, through October 3, 1997. The director was also requested to submit student attrition data to include attrition due to theory and clinical failure.
- On January 30, 1998, the Board approved the program's request to admit 48 students on February 16, 1998 only. A follow-up report on attrition and examination statistics was scheduled for presentation at the September 1998 Board meeting.
- On April 17, 1998, the Board approved the program's request to admit a class of 48 students on May 1, 1998. The program's request for an August 10, 1998, class was scheduled for consideration at the June 1998 Board meeting. The program's request for a November 2, 1998, class was scheduled for consideration at the September 1998 Board meeting.

- On June 26, 1998, the Board approved the program's request to admit 48 students on August 10, 1998.
- **On August 17, 1998, the Board was notified by school administration that the director of the vocational nursing program was no longer employed by the school.**
- **On August 20, 1998, a new program director was approved.**
- On September 11, 1998, the Board approved the program's request to admit 48 students on November 2, 1998.
- On January 22, 1999, the Board approved the program's request to admit 60 students on February 22, 1999, and ratified authorizations effective October 30, 1998, for revisions of the Grading, Attendance and Remediation Policies.
- On April 16, 1999, the Board approved the program's request to admit 60 students on May 24, 1999.
- On June 25, 1999, the Board approved the program's request to admit 60 students on August 23, 1999.
- On September 17, 1999, the Board approved the program's request to admit 60 students on November 22, 1999 only, with grave reservations. The Board directed the program to perform a detailed analysis of all program elements to determine causes of poor student performance on the licensure examination and identify written solutions, goals and timelines to ensure improvement of examination pass rates by December 1, 1999.
- On November 19, 1999, the Board deferred action on the program's request to admit 60 full-time students on March 6, 2000, to the February 2000 Board Meeting.
- On February 4, 2000, the Board approved the program's request to admit 60 students on March 6, 2000.
- On April 14, 2000, the Board approved the program's request to admit 60 students on May 22, 2000. Additionally, the Board approved the program's request to exceed 50% evening hours for clinical experience and requested the director submit a written report by July 15, 2000, relative to the effectiveness of the program's utilization of more than 50% evening hours for clinical experience. The report was to include a comparison of patient census with the number of students per clinical day per facility, assessment of the adequacy of patient diagnosis as they relate to student clinical objectives for the specific clinical day per facility, and assessment of student attrition caused by failure in the clinical area.

- On June 16, 2000, the Board denied the program's request to admit 60 students on September 5, 2000, and directed that a subsequent request for admission of a class be considered at the September 2000 Board meeting. Subsequent to the meeting, the program director submitted a request to meet with the Board to discuss its decision to deny the program's request. The meeting was held at the Board's Sacramento office.
- On September 29, 2000, the Board approved the program's request to **replace** graduating students with 60 full-time students on October 2, 2000, only.
- On November 17, 2000, the Board approved the program's request to **replace** graduating students with 60 full-time students on December 4, 2000, only.
- On February 2, 2001, the Board approved the program's request to **replace** graduating students with 60 full-time students on March 12, 2001, only.
- On April 27, 2001, the Board approved the program's request to admit 60 full-time students on May 21, 2001; and deferred action on the program's request to admit 60 full-time students on September 10, 2001, until the September 2001 Board meeting.
- On September 7, 2001, the Board approved the program's request to admit 60 full-time students on September 10, 2001, only.
- **On October 1, 2001, a new program director was approved.**
- On November 16, 2001, the Board approved the program's request to admit 60 full-time students on December 10, 2001, only.
- On February 8, 2002, the Board approved the program's request to admit 70 full-time students on March 25, 2002, only.
- On June 28, 2002, the Board ratified the Executive Officer's action approving the admission of 70 students, commencing May 20, 2002, to **replace** students who graduated June 17, 2002.
- On September 6, 2002, the Board approved the program's request to admit 70 students on September 9, 2002 only, to **replace** the class that graduated on September 16, 2002; **and** approved the program's request to begin a part-time weekend program with 70 students on October 2, 2002, only. The Board denied the program's request for ongoing admissions.
- On November 8, 2002, the Board approved the program's request to admit 70 full-time students on December 2, 2002 only, to **replace** students who graduated on December 16, 2002.
- On February 21, 2003, the Board approved continued full accreditation for the four-year period from February 21, 2003, through February 20, 2007, and issued a certificate accordingly; approved the program's request to admit 72 full-time students on March 10, 2003 only, to **replace** the class that graduated on March 31, 2003. The Board denied the program's request to begin a second part-time weekend class with 72 students on March 5, 2003.

- On April 11, 2003, the Board approved the program's request to admit 72 full-time students on June 9, 2003 only, to **replace** the class that graduated on June 16, 2003; **and** approved the program's request to begin a second part-time weekend class with 72 students on April 14, 2003 only, graduating on December 1, 2004.
- On June 20, 2003, the Board approved the program's request to admit 72 full-time students on September 8, 2003 only, to **replace** the class that graduated on September 15, 2003; and directed the program's completion of the following no later than October 3, 2003.
 - a. Perform a detailed analysis of all program elements to determine the cause of declining student performance on the licensure examination.
 - b. Develop a plan identifying goals based on the analysis.
 - c. Establish a timeline for improving NCLEX-PN[®] licensure examination pass rates.
- On September 19, 2003, the Board denied the recommendation to approve the program to begin a third part-time class of 72 students commencing September 22, 2003, and graduating April 27, 2005.

The Board directed the program to perform a detailed analysis pertaining to the discrepancy between the number of students admitted to each class and the number of students who take the NCLEX-PN[®] examination and to develop a plan identifying goals and a timeline for improving the number of students who take the NCLEX-PN[®] examination after completing the program. This information is to be added to the analysis requested by the Board at the June 20, 2003, Board meeting and shall be presented to the Board no later than November 7, 2003. Additionally, the program was directed to review all clinical objectives for relevancy and currency and to establish a method by which the program will monitor how and when clinical objectives are being met, and submit a report to the Board no later than November 7, 2003.

- **On November 7, 2003, the program rehired its former director who was instrumental in delivering the program's higher pass rates over the period from April 2001 to October 2001. With the rehire of the former director, the current director assumed the position of assistant director.**
- On November 12, 2003, the Board received the requested detailed analysis and plan pertaining to the discrepancy between the number of students admitted to each class and the number of students who take the NCLEX-PN[®] examination after completing the program. The response also included a review of how, when and where the clinical objectives were being met. The response was reviewed and found to be comprehensive and complete.
- On November 19, 2003, the Executive Officer approved the admission of 72 full-time students on December 1, 2003, only, to **replace** students who graduated December 14, 2003. The Executive Officer also approved the program's request to begin a third part-time class of 72 students starting November 17, 2003 only, and graduating June 20, 2005. Admission of this class reflected an increase in frequency of admission.

After reviewing the detailed analysis response, the Executive Officer requested the director's submission of progress reports from the quarterly curriculum review committee meetings and from the advisory Board meetings starting in March of 2004. Additionally, the program was requested to submit an evaluation of its strategic plan to increase number of test takers in March of 2005, after completion of the first class that receives instruction during an entire program cycle with the strategic plan in place.

- On February 20, 2004, the Board approved the program's request to admit a full-time class of 72 students starting on March 8, 2004 only, to **replace** students who graduated March 15, 2004.
- **In April 2004, the Board was notified of a change of director.**
- On May 14, 2004, the Board approved the program's request to admit 72 full-time students on June 7, 2004, to **replace** students who graduated on June 14, 2004; **and** approved the program's request to admit 72 part-time students on May 24, 2004, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate May 19, 2003; **and** approved on-going admissions to **replace** graduating classes only, with the stipulation that no additional classes are to be added to the program's current pattern of admissions without prior Board approval. The program's current pattern of admissions includes four (4) full-time classes and four (4) part-time classes per year. Each full-time and part-time class admits 72 students.
- On September 10, 2004, the Board approved continued full accreditation for the Summit Career College Vocational Nursing Program for the four-year period from February 21, 2003, through February 20, 2007, and issued a certificate accordingly.

The Board denied the program's request to admit 72 part-time students commencing on March 5, 2003 only, and graduating on October 13, 2004. This would have resulted in an increased frequency of admissions in the part-time program.

- On February 4, 2005, the Board approved the program's request to admit 72 students into an additional full-time class starting on March 14, 2005; **and** approved the program's request to admit 72 students into an additional part-time class starting February 22, 2005.
- On September 16, 2005, the Board approved the program's request to increase student enrollment in the full-time and part-time classes from **72 to 96** students per class.
- **On February 6, 2006, the Board was notified of a change of director.**
- On August 9, 2006, the Board granted continued full accreditation for the Summit Career College, Colton, Vocational Nursing Program for the four-year period from February 20, 2007, through February 19, 2011, and issued a certificate accordingly.
- On September 18, 2006, the Board notified the program that its average annual pass rate had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for the past four (4) quarters.

- **On September 26, 2006, the program notified the Board of a change in directors.**
- **On October 11, 2006, the Board was notified of a change of director.**
- On November 1, 2006, the director submitted a pass rate improvement/strategy plan.
- On December 12, 2006, the Board notified the program that its average annual pass rate had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for the past five (5) quarters.
- On February 16, 2007, the program submitted a revised plan of Improvement.
- On March 21, 2007, the Board notified the program that its average annual pass rate had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for the past six (6) quarters.
- On April 11, 2007, the director submitted an update to the plan of improvement for pass rates.
- On May 31, 2007, the Board notified the program that its average annual pass rate had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for the past seven (7) quarters.
- On August 8, 2007, the Board notified the program that its average annual pass rate had fallen more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for the past eight (8) quarters. Therefore, the program would be considered for provisional accreditation at the February 2008 Board meeting.
- On December 3, 2007, the director submitted a report analyzing the improvement plan and summarizing what the director and faculty have observed to be successful.
- **On December 17, 2007, the Academic Dean of the Summit Career College, Colton, Vocational Nursing Program requested Board approval of Sybil Damon for the position of director of the Summit Career College, Colton, Vocational Nursing Program. Dr. Damon was reinstated as Director on December 17, 2007.**
- On February 1, 2008, the Board placed the program on provisional accreditation for the two-year period from February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2010, and issued a notice to the program identifying specific areas of non-compliance and requirements for corrections referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations. **The program was placed on the agenda for the September 2009 Board meeting for reconsideration of the program's accreditation status.**
- On March 12, 2008, the Board issued the program a notice identifying areas of non-compliance and requirements for corrections.
- **On May 12, 2009, a new director was approved.**

- On June 3, 2009, the assigned consultant met with the campus director, new program director, and education specialist relative to the program's status.
- On June 24, 2009, the Board forwarded correspondence to the program advising that the Board would reconsider its accreditation status at the September 11, 2009 meeting. A comprehensive report was requested by July 17, 2009.
- On July 20, 2009, the Board received the program's comprehensive report.
- On October 7, 2009, the Board extended the program's provisional accreditation for the one – year period from September 17, 2009 through September 30, 2010, and directed issuance of a notice to the program to identify specific areas of non compliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations.

The program was required to show documented progress by submitting a follow-up report in 10 months. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. The following elements must be addressed in the analysis:

- a. Current Student Enrollment.
- b. Admission Criteria.
- c. Screening and Selection Criteria.
- d. Terminal Objectives.
- e. Curriculum Objectives.
- f. Instructional Plan.
- g. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
- h. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
- i. Textbooks.
- j. Attendance Policy.
- k. Remediation Policy.
- l. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
- m. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
- n. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.
- o. Evaluation of Student Achievement.

Additionally, the Board rescinded its approval for ongoing admissions for full-time and part-time classes effective immediately. The program must obtain prior Board approval to admit future classes. The program is required to comply with all accreditation standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code Section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, section 2525.

- On November 4, 2009, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit a full – time class of 96 students to commence November 9, 2009 only, graduating November 12, 2010, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate November 6, 2009. Additionally, the program's request to admit a part – time class of 96 students commencing December 23, 2009 only; and graduating July 22, 2011, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate December 6, 2009, was approved.

- On December 17, 2009, the Board issued the program a notice identifying areas of non-compliance and requirements for corrections.
- On March 1, 2010, the Executive Officer approved Summit Career College, Colton, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit a full – time class of 96 students to commence March 1, 2010 only, graduating March 4, 2011, to **replace** students who graduated February 5, 2010; and approved the program's request to admit a part – time class of 96 students commencing May 19, 2010 only, graduating December 17, 2011, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate May 7, 2010.
- On July 1, 2010, the Board received the program's follow-up report relative to its comprehensive analysis of program elements, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions.
- On July 20, 2010, the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit a full – time class of 96 students commencing June 30, 2010 only, graduating June 24, 2011, to **replace** students who graduated May 7, 2010, **and** approved the program's request to admit a full – time class of 96 students commencing August 9, 2010 only, graduating August 12, 2011, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate August 6, 2010; **and** approved the program's request to admit a part – time class of 96 students commencing October 12, 2010 only, graduating May 15, 2012, to **replace** students scheduled to graduate October 10, 2010; **and** continued the program's requirement to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.

Enrollment

The program offers a 52-week full-time and a 66-week part-time class. Board approval is required prior to the admission of each class. The pattern of admissions for current and projected classes is seen in the enrollment table below.

The following table represents **current and projected** student enrollment based on current and proposed class starts and completions. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 607 students** for the period from April 2008 through October 2010.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Completed			
4/08 (FT)		61	31	31
4/08 (PT)		45	20	31 + 20 = 51
10/08 (PT)		76	51	51 + 51 = 102
10/08 (FT)		92	67	102 + 67 = 169
2/09 (FT)		96 + 8	71	169 + 71 = 240
3/09 (PT)		69	39	240 + 39 = 279
	5/09 (4/08 FT Class)		-31	279 – 31 = 248
5/09 (FT)		96 + 7	67	248 + 67 = 315
	6/09 (11/07 PT Class)		- 46	315 – 46 = 269

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Completed			
7/09 (PT)		96	79	269 + 79 = 348
	7/09 (7/08 FT Class)		- 40	348 - 40 = 308
8/09 FT		96	94	308 + 94 = 402
11/09 FT		96	94	402 + 94 = 496
	11/09 (10/08 FT Class)		- 67	496 - 67 = 429
	12/09 (4/08 PT Class)		- 20	429 - 20 = 409
12/09 PT		96		409 + 96 = 505
	2/10 (2/09 FT Class)		-71	505 - 71 = 434
3/10 (FT)		96		434 + 96 = 530
	5/10 (10/08 PT Class)		-67	530 - 67 = 463
5/10 (PT)		96		463 + 96 = 559
	5/10 (FT) (5/09 Class)		-67	559 - 67 = 492
6/10 (FT)		96		492 + 96 = 588
	8/10 (FT) (8/09 Class)		-94	588 - 94 = 494
8/10 (FT)		96		494 + 96 = 590
	10/10 (PT) (7/09 Class)		-79	590 - 79 = 511
10/10 (PT)		96		511 + 96 = 607

Licensing Examination Statistics

The following statistics, furnished by the Pearson Vue and published by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as "Jurisdictional Summary of All First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdiction," for the period October 2005 through June 2010, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the Summit Career College, Colton, Vocational Nursing Program on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical (Vocational) Nurses (NCLEX-PN®).

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Data						
Quarterly Statistics					Annual Statistics*	
Quarter	# Candidates	# Passed	% Passed	State Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate
Oct - Dec 2005	85	51	60%	79%	63%	81%
Jan - Mar 2006	57	24	42%	80%	56%	79%
Apr - Jun 2006	96	55	57%	76%	54%	79%
Jul - Sept 2006	102	63	62%	79%	57%	79%
Oct - Dec 2006	109	71	65%	77%	59%	78%
Jan - Mar 2007	100	63	63%	77%	62%	77%
Apr - Jun 2007	85	46	54%	74%	61%	77%

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Data						
Quarterly Statistics					Annual Statistics*	
Quarter	# Candidates	# Passed	% Passed	State Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate
Jul – Sept 2007	101	43	43%	76%	57%	76%
Oct – Dec 2007	162	84	52%	76%	53%	76%
Jan – Mar 2008	93	49	53%	75%	50%	75%
Apr – Jun 2008	97	58	60%	70%	52%	74%
Jul – Sept 2008	63	43	68%	74%	56%	74%
Oct – Dec 2008	139	77	55%	73%	58%	73%
Jan – Mar 2009	64	32	50%	70%	58%	72%
Apr – Jun 2009	73	53	73%	71%	60%	70%
Jul – Sept 2009	39	30	77%	74%	61%	72%
Oct – Dec 2009	45	40	89%	76%	70%	73%
Jan – Mar 2010	29	22	76%	74%	78%	74%
Apr – Jun 2010	65	57	88%	74%	84%	75%

*The Annual Pass Rate changes every quarter. It is calculated by dividing the number of candidates who passed during the current and previous three quarters by the number of candidates who tested during the same period.

Based on the most recent data available (April - June 2010), the program's average annual pass rate is 84%. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from accredited vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® for the first time during the same period is 75%. The average annual pass rate for the Summit Career College, Colton, Vocational Nursing Program is nine (9) percentage points **above** the state average annual pass rate.

Faculty and Facilities

Section 2534(d) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"For supervision of clinical experience, there shall be a maximum of 15 students for each instructor."

The total number of Board approved faculty is 53, including the program director. The director has 100% administrative duties. Of the total faculty, 48 are approved to teach in the clinical area.

Based on a maximum enrollment of 607 students, 41 instructors are needed. Therefore, the number of current faculty is adequate for the current and projected enrollment.

Section 2534(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

"Schools shall have clinical facilities adequate as to number, type, and variety of patients treated, to provide clinical experience for all students in the areas specified by Section 2533. There must be available for student assignment, an adequate daily census of patients to afford a variety of clinical experiences consistent with competency-based objectives and theory being taught."

The program has clinical facilities that are adequate as to type and variety of patients treated to enable current and proposed students to meet clinical objectives, in accordance with Section 2534(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.

Faculty and Facilities

Section 2534(d) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

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The total number of Board approved faculty is 53, including the program director. The director has 100% administrative duties. Of the total faculty, 48 are approved to teach in the clinical area.

Based on a maximum enrollment of 607 students, 41 instructors are needed. Therefore, the number of current faculty is **adequate** for the current and projected enrollment.

Section 2534(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations states:

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The program has clinical facilities that are adequate as to type and variety of patients treated to enable current and proposed students to meet clinical objectives, in accordance with Section 2534(b) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations.

Other Considerations

Examination statistics furnished by the Pearson Vue and published by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as "Jurisdictional Summary of All First-Time Candidates Educated in Member Board Jurisdiction," substantiates that Summit Career Colton, Vocational Nursing Program failed to achieve an annual average pass rate on the NCLEX-PN® that was within 10 percentage points of the state average annual pass rate for the period October 2005 through March 2009.

On February 1, 2008, the Board placed the program on Provisional Accreditation. That action was taken due to the program's unacceptably low pass rates on the NCLEX-PN®. At that time, the program's average annual pass rate was 57%. On March 12, 2008, the Board issued the program a notice identifying areas of non-compliance and requirements for corrections.

On May 12, 2009, a new program director was approved. On June 3, 2009, the assigned consultant met with the campus director, new program director, and education specialist relative to the status of the program and critical issues impacting student achievement. Given the number of students enrolled in the program, the consultant strongly recommended that an assistant director be hired to assist the program director.

Additionally, the consultant recommended that the program director complete a comprehensive analysis of the program to include the following:

- a. Admission Criteria.
- b. Screening and Selection Criteria.
- c. Terminal Objectives.
- d. Curriculum Objectives.
- e. Instructional Plan.
- f. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
- g. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
- h. List of Textbooks.
- i. Attendance Policy.
- j. Remediation Policy.
- k. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
- l. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
- m. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.

Program representatives were advised that the Board had scheduled reconsideration of the program's status at the September 2009 Board meeting.

On July 20, 2009, the Board received correspondence from the director advising that the following actions had been taken subsequent to the June 3, 2009 meeting.

➤ **Faculty.**

An assistant director was hired

➤ **Admission Criteria.**

The program revised its admission criteria as follows.

1. Individuals seeking admission are required to complete a 32-hour prerequisite course that includes:
 - a) Anatomy & Physiology – 13 Hours;
 - b) Basic Math – 12 Hours;
 - c) Medical Terminology – 5 Hours; and
 - d) Vocational Nursing Role and Professionalism – 2 Hours.
2. All applicants are required to complete the HESI entrance examination prior to admission.

➤ **Evaluation Methodology for Student Progress.**

1. The program revised its grading procedure. Students are awarded a grade in theory and a clinical grade. Clinical performance is graded on a pass/fail basis and is supported by a detailed evaluation.
2. The program administers HESI specialty examinations at the end of Terms 1–3. The results are utilized by the faculty and students to identify those with deficits

in theory and clinical performance. Based on the results, intensive remediation will be undertaken for each student.

➤ **Curriculum Analysis.**

A comprehensive analysis of the curriculum is in progress.

➤ **LVN Learning Academy.**

The school created a LVN Learning Academy. As described, the academy is staffed with a team of professionals who specialize in adult learning achievement. These professionals provide assistance to the program director in the analysis of the program and the development of relevant interventions.

On October 7, 2009, the Board extended the program's provisional accreditation for one the one-year period from September 17, 2009 through September 30, 2010, and directed issuance of a notice to the program to identify specific areas of non compliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations. The program was required to show documented progress by submitting a follow-up report in 10 months. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timeline for implementation, and the effect of employed interventions. Additionally, the Board rescinded ongoing admissions for full-time and part-time classes effective immediately. The program must obtain prior Board approval to admit future classes. The program is required to comply with all accreditation standards in Article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code section 2880, and Article 5 of the Board's regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2525. At that time the program's average annual pass rate was 60%.

On October 29, 2009, a new program director was approved.

On December 17, 2009, the Board issued the program a notice per certified and regular mail, identifying areas of non – compliance and requirements for correction (see Attachment A).

On July 1, 2010, the Board received a comprehensive report from the program director. The report detailed the program's interventions and the effectiveness thereof to improve student achievement and program pass rates. (See Attachment B)

An analysis of the program's performance statistics on the licensure examination evidences the effectiveness of those employed interventions. From April 2009 through June 2010, the program's average annual pass rate has been within ten (10 percentage points) of the state's average annual pass rate.

Based on the most recent data available (April - June 2010), the program's average annual pass rate is 84%. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from accredited vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® for the first time during the same period is 75%. As such, the average annual pass rate for the Summit Career College, Colton, Vocational Nursing Program is nine (9) percentage points **above** the state average annual pass rate.

Recommendations:

1. Approve full accreditation of Summit Career College, Colton, Vocational Nursing Program for the four-year period from September 16, 2010 through September 15, 2014, and issue a certificate accordingly.
2. Continue to require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class.

Rationale: The program was placed on provisional accreditation due to low pass rates on the NCLEX/PN[®]. Board staff met with the program director, director of education, and campus director relative to the status of the program. Several recommendations were discussed relative to program elements critical to student achievement. Program representatives received the information and completed the recommended comprehensive program analysis. Based on that analysis, several critical changes were made. The effectiveness of those changes is evidenced by the significant and sustained improvement in the program's average annual pass rates on the NCLEX/PN[®].

Such improvement supports a recommendation for full accreditation. However, caution must be exercised to ensure sustained improvement in program pass rates. A rapid increase in the number of enrolled students may negate the improvement and distract focus from the effectiveness of the interventions. Thus, continuation of the requirement for the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class is recommended.

Board staff will continue to monitor the program by tracking its licensure examination pass rate quarterly, reviewing Annual Reports submitted by the director, and performing accreditation surveys every four years.

Attachment A: Notification of Change in Accreditation Status Dated December 17, 2009
Attachment B: Program Correspondence and Report Dated June 29, 2010



CERTIFIED MAIL

December 17, 2009

Dyan Renee Batres, B.S., R.N., Director
Vocational Nursing Program
Summit Career College - Colton
851 South Colley Drive
Colton, CA 92324

Subject: Notice of Change in Accreditation Status

Dear Ms. Batres:

Pursuant to the action of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) on October 7, 2009, the provisional accreditation status of the Summit Career College, Colton, Vocational Nursing Program has been extended. Please sign and return the enclosed "Acknowledgement of Change in Accreditation Status" form by **Thursday, December 31, 2009.**

AREAS OF NON-COMPLIANCE [VIOLATION(S)]

In accordance with Section 2526.1(c) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations,

"The Board may place any program on provisional accreditation when that program does not meet all requirements as set forth in this chapter and in Section 2526..."

Section 2530(l) of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations states:

"The program shall maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate on the licensure examination that does not fall below 10 percentage points of the state average pass rate for first time candidates of accredited vocational nursing schools for the same period.

- (l) Failure to maintain the required yearly average minimum pass rate for two years or eight consecutive quarters may be cause to place a program on provisional accreditation."

The program pass rates of the Summit Career College, Colton, Vocational Nursing Program for the past sixteen (15) quarters are set forth in the following table.

Quarter	State Annual Average Pass Rate	Program Annual Average Pass Rate
Oct – Dec 2005	81%	55%
Jan – Mar 2006	79%	46%
Apr – Jun 2006	79%	58%
Jul – Sep 2006	79%	45%
Oct – Dec 2006	78%	44%
Jan – Mar 2007	77%	62%
Apr – Jun 2007	77%	61%
Jul – Sep 2007	76%	57%
Oct – Dec 2007	76%	53%
Jan – Mar 2008	75%	50%
Apr – Jun 2008	74%	52%
Jul – Sep 2008	74%	56%
Oct – Dec 2008	73%	58%
Jan – Mar 2009	72%	58%
Apr – June 2009	70%	60%

Based on this data, the program failed to meet the annual average pass rate requirement.

REQUIRED CORRECTION(S)

1. The Summit Career College, Colton, Vocational Nursing Program must bring its licensure examination annual average pass rate to no more than ten (10) percentage points below the State annual average pass rate for four (4) consecutive quarters by **September 30, 2010**.
2. The program must show documented progress by submitting a follow-up report in 10 months, but no later than **July 15, 2010**. The report must include a comprehensive analysis of the program, specific actions taken to improve program pass rates, timelines for expected results, and the effectiveness of corrective actions taken to address the following elements:
 - a. Current Student Enrollment.
 - b. Admission Criteria.
 - c. Screening and Selection Criteria.
 - d. Terminal Objectives.
 - e. Curriculum Objectives.
 - f. Instructional Plan.
 - g. Theory and Clinical Objectives for Each Course.
 - h. Lesson Plans for Each Course.
 - i. Textbooks.
 - j. Attendance Policy.
 - k. Remediation Policy.
 - l. Evaluations of Theory and Clinical Faculty.
 - m. Evaluations of Theory Presentations.
 - n. Evaluations of Clinical Rotations and Their Correlation to Theory Presentations.

- n. Evaluation of Student Achievement.
3. The program's approval for ongoing admissions for full – time and part – time classes is rescinded, effective immediately. Prior Board approval is required to admit future classes.
4. The program must comply with all accreditation standards in article 4 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, commencing at Business and Professions Code section 2880, and article 5 of the Board's regulations, commencing at California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2525.

Failure to take these corrective actions may cause the Board to revoke the program's accreditation. In the event additional violations of the accreditation standards are identified, such violations may result in further corrective action or revocation of provisional accreditation.

FUTURE BOARD ACTION

Your program will be placed on the **September 2010** Board Meeting agenda for reconsideration of your accreditation status. The nursing education consultant assigned to your program will ask you to submit documentation of the correction of your violation(s) by the fifteenth day of the second month prior to that Board meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please be advised that, pursuant to the Board's regulations, the program will not be authorized to admit new classes beyond the established pattern of admissions previously approved by the Board. The established pattern of admissions approved by the Board is as follows: **prior Board approval is required to admit each class.**

In the event your program is required to submit any report(s) as a corrective action pursuant to this notice, such reports are required in addition to any other reports required pursuant to 2527 of the Board's regulations.

The program may no longer advertise that it has full accreditation, and should take steps to correct any ongoing advertisements or publications in that regard.

A copy of title 16, California Code of Regulations, section 2526.1, regarding provisional accreditation is attached for your reference. A complete copy of the Board's laws and regulations can be found on the Board's web site at www.bvnpt.ca.gov.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Board.

Sincerely,

TERESA BELLO-JONES, J.D., M.S.N., R.N.
Executive Officer

cca

Enclosure

cc: Board Members