

May 21, 2009



Commission on  
Collegiate Nursing  
Education

Serving the  
Public Interest  
Through Quality  
Accreditation

Mary Ann Rea-Ramirez, EdD, RN, CNM  
Director  
Division of Nursing  
Western Governors University  
4001 South 700 East, Suite 700  
Salt Lake City, UT 84107-2533

Dear Dr. Rea-Ramirez:

On behalf of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), I am pleased to advise you that the CCNE Board of Commissioners acted at its meeting on April 23-25, 2009, to grant accreditation of the baccalaureate degree program in nursing and master's degree program in nursing at Western Governors University for the term of 5 years, extending to June 30, 2014. The accreditation action is retroactive to November 19, 2008, which is the first day of the programs' most recent CCNE on-site evaluation. You should plan for the next on-site evaluation to take place in the fall of 2013.

At its meeting, the Board determined that the programs met all four accreditation standards. The Board additionally determined that there are no compliance concerns with respect to the key elements.

As is required for all accredited programs, the Board requested that the programs submit a Continuous Improvement Progress Report (CIPR) at the mid-point of the accreditation term. The CIPR should address the nursing programs' continued compliance with all accreditation standards. The deadline for submitting the progress report to CCNE is June 1, 2012. The Report Review Committee, and then the Board of Commissioners, will review the progress report in the fall of 2012. For more information about CIPRs, please refer to the CCNE *Procedures for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Degree Nursing Programs*, available at <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Accreditation/pdf/Procedures.pdf>.

Please note that the CCNE standards will have been revised by the time the aforementioned report is due, and the programs will need to address the standards that are in effect at that time. Thus, CCNE will provide the programs with the revised standards, along with a crosswalk table showing the relationship between the old standards and the new standards, when this information is available.

A copy of the accreditation report that was sent to you earlier, along with your response to it, is being transmitted to the institution's chief executive officer as the Commission's official report to Western Governors University. We hope that both the results of your self-study process and the accreditation report will be useful to the continued growth and development of the nursing programs. Certificates of accreditation are enclosed.

As a reminder, programs are expected to continue to comply with the CCNE standards and procedures throughout the period of accreditation. This includes advising CCNE in the event of any substantive change in your nursing programs or of any major organizational changes that may affect the programs' administration, scope, or quality. Substantive change notifications must be submitted to CCNE no earlier than 90 days prior to implementation or occurrence of the change, but no

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later than 90 days after implementation or occurrence of the change. These reporting requirements are discussed further in the CCNE *Procedures*.

We appreciate the many courtesies and the helpfulness extended to the CCNE evaluation team in the fall of 2008. The Commissioners join me in expressing our best wishes as you proceed with tasks important to the future of your nursing programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harriet R. Feldman".

Harriet R. Feldman, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Chair, Board of Commissioners

cc: President and CEO Robert W. Mendenhall  
CCNE Board of Commissioners  
CCNE Accreditation Review Committee  
CCNE Evaluation Team