BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

Defiance College

RECOMMENDATION

Defiance College meets the Chancellor's standards for undergraduate programs, and the review team recommends provisional authorization for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree completion program. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw provisional authorization if, in the Chancellor's judgment, the progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress in any area. Progress reports are to be submitted by December 31, 2009, 2010, and 2011. A follow-up review will be performed prior to December 31, 2012 to determine continued authorization of the program.

Profile: Defiance College, located in Defiance, Ohio, is an independent co-educational institution affiliated with the United Church of Christ. Originally established in 1850, the college today serves nearly 1,000 students through its undergraduate and master's programs.

Accreditation/Authorization: Defiance College is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and possesses specialized accreditation for several of its professional programs. The college has been continuously authorized by the Chancellor since February 1970.

Program Information: The college is requesting authorization to deliver a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree completion program. The mission of the proposed program is "to expand the registered nurse's intellectual inquiry of evidence based nursing practice through education, scholarship, and service." The proposed 1+2+1 program was modeled after similar RN to BSN completion programs and will be delivered collaboratively with Northwest State Community College. Students will complete their first year in a pre-nursing program at Defiance; transfer to Northwest State to complete an associate degree in nursing; and return to Defiance their final year to complete the BSN completion component. The program comprises 120 total credit hours, of which 72 may be transferred into the program. The program includes clinical experiences and was developed in alignment with National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) standards. The college intends to apply for NLNAC accreditation once the program is approved.

Review Results: The review team noted several strengths in the review, including the innovative structure and collaborative nature of the program; alignment of program and institutional missions; institutional commitment to the program in meeting the nursing needs in the region; orientation and professional development opportunities for nursing faculty; and assessment practices for the proposed program.

The team also noted some areas of non compliance with the Chancellor's standards and recommended that the institution: review the curriculum to include current topics in areas such as pathophysiology, health care economics, gerontology, health assessment, nursing ethics and informatics; provide an updated faculty staffing plan; provide a memorandum of understanding clearly delineating the roles of the college and Northwest State; and re-examine the current library nursing collection as the program grows.

The institution responded appropriately to the recommendations of the consultants' report by demonstrating how the recommendations were accepted and integrated into the proposed program, or, in the case of recommendations that could only be complied with over time, by presenting a clear plan for the implementation of the recommendations and a timeline for such.

Recommendation to the Chancellor: Defiance College meets the Chancellor's standards for undergraduate programs, and the review team recommends provisional authorization for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree completion program. Provisional authorization will continue through December 31, 2012, contingent upon continuing accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and contingent upon the Chancellor's written approval of progress reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress toward compliance with all standards. The Chancellor shall withdraw provisional authorization if, in the Chancellor's judgment, the progress reports do not demonstrate satisfactory progress in any area. Progress reports are to be submitted by December 31, 2009, 2010, and 2011. A follow-up review will be performed prior to December 31, 2012 to determine continued authorization of the program.

End of Comment Period: August 26, 2009
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED

Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor — 9/8/09 **Date**

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