

# Agenda Item #12.B.1.



BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
**BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS**  
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## COVER SHEET

**SUBJECT: Carrington College, Pleasant Hill, Vocational Nursing Program – Consideration of Placement on Provisional Approval (Director: Adam Riner, Contra Costa County, Private)**

The Carrington College, Pleasant Hill, Vocational Nursing Program is presented for consideration of placement on provisional approval. The program has submitted a request to suspend all admissions and to close the program, effective July 8, 2016, which is the date the currently enrolled students are scheduled to graduate.

Provisional approval is recommended.

### Recommendations:

1. Place the Carrington College, Pleasant Hill, Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for the one (1) year period from May 13, 2016 through May 31, 2017, and issue a notice to the program to identify specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations. (See Attachment C)
2. Place the program on the Board's **May 2017** agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.
3. Require the program to provide no less than one (1) instructor for every ten (10) students in clinical experiences.
4. Require the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the full Board.
5. Require the program director to submit, under penalty of perjury, the names of all enrolled students, date of admission, placement in the curriculum, and expected date of graduation by **June 1, 2016**.
6. Require the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than (10) ten percentage points below the State average annual pass rate.
7. Require the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress the full Board may revoke the program's approval.

8. Require the program to comply with all approval 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 2526.
9. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval.



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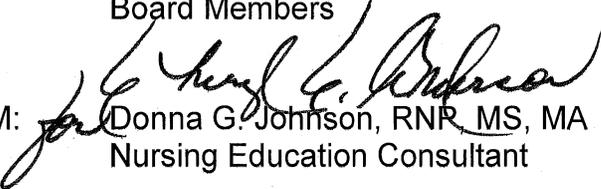
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DATE: April 29, 2016

TO: Board Members

FROM:  Donna G. Johnson, RNP, MS, MA  
Nursing Education Consultant

SUBJECT: Carrington College, Pleasant Hill, Vocational Nursing Program – Consideration of Placement on Provisional Approval (Director: Adam Riner, Contra Costa County, Private)

The Carrington College, Pleasant Hill, Vocational Nursing Program is presented for consideration of placement on provisional approval.

In accordance with Section 2526.1(c) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and Regulations,

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

Section 2530(l) of the Vocational Nursing Rules and 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 approved vocational nursing schools for the same period.”

On February 17, 2016, when considering a report regarding a request to admit students and the consecutive quarters of noncompliance with regulations related to licensure pass rates, the Acting Executive Officer referred the program to the Board for consideration of placement on provisional approval.

However, on April 8, 2016, the Board received the program’s request to suspend all admissions and to close the program, effective July 8, 2016, which is the date the currently enrolled students are scheduled to graduate.

## **History of Prior Board Actions**

(See Attachment A, History of Prior Board Actions)

## Enrollment

The program offers a full-time curriculum and must obtain approval of the Board prior to admitting each class.

The following table represents **projected** student enrollment based on current class starts and completions. The table indicates a **maximum enrollment of 52 students** for the period from **March 2012 through July 2016**.

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Complete			
3/12		15	10	<b>10</b>
7/12		13	11	10 + 11 = <b>21</b>
11/12		19	15	21 + 15 = <b>36</b>
3/13		0	0	36 + 0 = <b>36</b>
	6/13 (3/12 Class)		-10	36 - 10 = <b>26</b>
7/13		0	0	26 + 0 = <b>26</b>
10/13		30	19	26 + 19 = <b>45</b>
	11/13 (7/12 Class)		-11	45 - 11 = <b>34</b>
	3/14 (11/12 Class)		-15	34 - 15 = <b>19</b>
3/14		28	21	19 + 21 = <b>40</b>
7/14		15	12	40 + 12 = <b>52</b>
	10/14 (10/13 Class)		-19	52 - 19 = <b>33</b>
11/14		15	13	33 + 13 = <b>46</b>
	3/15 (3/14 Class)		-21	46 - 21 = <b>25</b>
3/15		18	15	25 + 15 = <b>40</b>
	7/15 (7/14 Class)		-12	40 - 12 = <b>28</b>
7/15		22	20	28 + 20 = <b>48</b>

ENROLLMENT DATA				
CLASS DATES		#Students Admitted	#Students Current or Completed	Total Enrolled
Start	Complete			
	11/15 (11/14 Class)		-13	48 - 13 = <b>35</b>
	3/16 (3/15 Class)		-15	35 - 15 = <b>20</b>
3/16	3/17	0	0	20 + 0 = <b>20</b>
	7/16 (7/15 Class)		-20	20 - 20 = <b>0</b>

### Licensing Examination Statistics

The following statistics, furnished by 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 January 2012 through March 2016, specify the pass percentage rates for graduates of the Carrington College, Pleasant Hill, Vocational Nursing Program on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical/Vocational Nurses (NCLEX-PN®) and the variance from state average annual pass rates.

NCLEX-PN® Licensure Examination Data							
Quarterly Statistics					Annual Statistics*		
Quarter	# Candidates	# Passed	% Passed	State Average Quarterly Pass Rate	Program Average Annual Pass Rate	State Average Annual Pass Rate [CCR §2530 (I)]	Variance from State Average Annual Pass Rate
Jan – Mar 2012	16	16	100	77%	94%	74%	+20
Apr – Jun 2012	3	3	100%	72%	95%	74%	+21
Jul – Sep 2012	8	4	50%	74%	88%	74%	+14
Oct – Dec 2012	15	12	80%	70%	83%	74%	+9
Jan – Mar 2013	21	14	67%	75%	70%	73%	-3
Apr – Jun 2013	3	2	67%	78%	68%	73%	-5
Jul – Sep 2013	11	11	100%	75%	78%	74%	+4
Oct – Dec 2013	11	11	100%	76%	83%	76%	+7
Jan – Mar 2014	11	8	73%	74%	89%	76%	+13
Apr – Jun 2014	6	2	33%	66%	82%	73%	+9
Jul – Sep 2014	9	3	33%	72%	65%	73%	-8
Oct – Dec 2014	4	0	0%	72%	<b>43%</b>	72%	<b>-29</b>
Jan – Mar 2015	9	5	56%	73%	<b>36%</b>	71%	<b>-35</b>
Apr – Jun 2015	4	3	75%	69%	<b>42%</b>	72%	<b>-30</b>
Jul – Sep 2015	9	4	44%	73%	<b>46%</b>	72%	<b>-26</b>
Oct – Dec 2015	10	6	60%	75%	<b>56%</b>	72%	<b>-16</b>
Jan – Mar 2016	14	7	50%	73%	<b>54%</b>	73%	<b>-19</b>

\*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. If no data is available for the relevant period, the statistic is carried over from the last quarter for which data is available.

California Code of Regulations section 2530(l) 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 approved vocational nursing schools for the same period.”

This data substantiates the program’s **noncompliance** with regulatory requirements for the last **six (6) consecutive quarters**.

Based on the **most recent data available** (January through March 2016), the program’s average annual pass rate is **54%**. The California average annual pass rate for graduates from approved vocational nursing programs who took the NCLEX-PN® for the first time during the same period is 73%. The average annual pass rate for the Carrington College, Pleasant Hill, Vocational Nursing Program is **19** percentage points **below** 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 11, including the program director, one (1) Additional Faculty, and one (1) Teacher Assistant. The director reports 90% time dedicated to administration of the program. A total of nine (9) faculty, including the director, are approved for clinical instruction.

For a maximum enrollment of 52 students, four (4) instructors are needed; therefore, the number of current faculty is **adequate** for the current 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 **sufficient** clinical facilities to afford the number, type, and variety of patients that will provide clinical experience consistent with competency-based objectives and the theory being taught.

### **Other Considerations**

In conjunction with the Program Record Survey conducted in 2015, a total of **four (4) violations** were identified. The following violations were identified:

1. Failure to report termination of faculty within ten (10) days;
2. Failure to provide clinical experiences in a manner that correlated theory content and clinical experience;
3. Failure to follow the Board-approved Instructional Plan; and
4. Failure to maintain a yearly average minimum pass rate that is no more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate for first time candidates from approved vocational nursing programs.

The program's current director, approved on March 9, 2015, and the fifth program director since continued approval was granted in 2012, changed how clinical experiences were scheduled, resulting in a plan that **corrected the violations** identified related to maternity and pediatric clinical experiences and the failure to provide correlated instruction. A plan to provide timely notification of faculty termination was also presented, as was a plan for improvement of program pass rates.

As a result of the program's efforts to correct the violations, continued approval was granted the Carrington College, Pleasant Hill, Vocational Nursing Program on July 30, 2015; however, the program's approval of ongoing admissions was rescinded.

On December 28, 2015, after notification of four (4) consecutive quarters of non-compliant pass rates, the program provided a status report regarding the improvement plan. (See Attachment B). In summary, the program described:

- Continuing and increased outreach efforts to past graduates to provide resources, support and review in preparation for the licensing examination;
- Incorporation of ATI review products earlier in the program;
- Individual coaching sessions for existing and former students;
- Individual NCLEX-PN® preparation planning meetings for all students prior to graduation, offering personalized preparation plans;
- Biweekly meetings of campus administration, Career Services staff and the program director focusing on outreach with graduates encouraging preparation for the NCLEX-PN® and identification of at-risk students;
- Hosting of a live three (3) day ATI review session for graduating students;
- ATI virtual support for graduates and past graduates;
- No-cost review sessions (including textbooks) that meet twice weekly for 10 weeks;
- All VN faculty have been orientated to ATI NCLEX® review materials;
- Alignment of program examinations to the NCLEX-PN® test plan;
  - Faculty received instruction on test construction
  - Examinations revised to align with testing level of the NCLEX-PN® test plan
- Enhanced faculty orientation and professional development offerings;
- Requirement for all faculty to complete one (1) professional development activity monthly;
- Faculty provided education resources to increase the use of simulation techniques;
- All students and faculty provided with the NCLEX-PN® test plan;
- Remediation improvements;
  - Individual student success contracts for each course
  - Faculty conduct student progress reviews in each course
  - Meetings with students identified as "at-risk"
  - Use of Student Success team to implement remediation plans

- Program director has conducted assessments of all faculty; and
- Additional clinical placement secured.

On February 17, 2016, when the Acting Executive Officer reviewed a report regarding the program's request to admit students, the decision to approve the request to admit was rendered, given the increase in the program's **quarterly** pass rate for Quarter 4 - 2015, and the improvement plans that had been put into place. However, with five (5) consecutive quarters of noncompliant pass rates between **29 to 16 percentage points below** the state average annual pass rate, the decision was rendered to place the program on the Board's agenda for consideration of placement on provisional approval.

On April 8, 2016, the Board was notified by the program that no students were admitted to the class scheduled to begin March 28, 2016. Further, as presented in writing by the program, the Carrington College, Pleasant Hill, Vocational Nursing Program has suspended all admissions and intends to close the program upon the graduation of the remaining students. That graduation is scheduled for July 8, 2016. (See Attachment C)

### **Recommendations:**

1. Place the Carrington College, Pleasant Hill, Vocational Nursing Program on provisional approval for the one (1) year period from May 13, 2016 through May 31, 2017, and issue a notice to the program to identify specific areas of noncompliance and requirements for correction as referenced in Section 2526.1 (e) of the California Code of Regulations. (See Attachment C)
2. Place the program on the Board's **May 2017** agenda for reconsideration of provisional approval.
3. Require the program to provide no less than one (1) instructor for every ten (10) students in clinical experiences.
4. Require the program to admit no additional classes without prior approval by the full Board.
5. Require the program director to submit, under penalty of perjury, the names of all enrolled students, date of admission, placement in the curriculum, and expected date of graduation by **June 1, 2016**.
6. Require the program to bring its average annual pass rate to no more than (10) ten percentage points below the State average annual pass rate.
7. Require the program to demonstrate incremental progress in correcting the violations. If the program fails to satisfactorily demonstrate incremental progress the full Board may revoke the program's approval.
8. Require the program to comply with all approval 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 2526.

9. Failure to take any of these corrective actions may cause the full Board to revoke the program's approval.

**Rationale:**

The program's current average annual pass rate is **54%**, which is **19** percentage points **below** the state average annual pass rate. The program presented comprehensive improvement plans, beginning **before** the fourth quarter of noncompliant pass rates. The program now has **five (5) consecutive quarters** of average annual pass rates **substantially greater than ten (10) percentage points below** the state's average annual pass rate on the licensure examination.

The program has identified the intent to close the program immediately after graduation of the remaining students, which is scheduled for July 2016. The program has adequate faculty and clinical facilities to support the currently enrolled students.

Placement of the program on provisional approval at this time is warranted by program pass rates that are noncompliant with regulatory requirements and will ensure the program is accountable for the currently enrolled students.

Attachment A: History of Prior Board Action

Attachment B: Program Correspondence Dated December 28, 2015

Attachment C: Program Correspondence Dated April 8, 2016

# Agenda Item #12.B.1., Attachment A

## CARRINGTON COLLEGE, PLEASANT HILL, VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

### History of Prior Board Actions

- On May 11, 2006, the Executive Officer approved Western Career College, Antioch, to begin a vocational nursing program with an initial class of 37 students on May 22, 2006, only; and approved the program curriculum for 1565 hours, including 611 theory, and 954 clinical hours.
- On April 11, 2007, the Executive Officer approved initial full accreditation for Western Career College, Antioch, Vocational Nursing Program for the period from April 12, 2007, through April 11, 2011, and issued a certificate accordingly; approved the program's request to admit a full-time class of 32 students to start on October 8, 2007, only, to replace students graduating on September 28, 2007; and approved the program's request to admit a full-time class of 32 students to start on June 11, 2007, only, thereby increasing the program's frequency of admissions.
- On March 20, 2008 the Executive Officer approved the program's request to admit an additional class of 32 students on April 1, 2008; **and**, approved the program's request to admit an additional class of 32 students on June 23, 2008; **and**, approved ongoing admissions to replace graduating classes, **only**, for the Western Career College, Antioch, Vocational Nursing Program with the following stipulations:
  - a. No additional classes are added to the program's current pattern of admissions without prior Board approval. The program's current pattern of admissions includes three class admissions per year with the start date of replacement classes occurring 24 calendar days after the end date of the previous class.
  - b. The director documents that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
- On May 27, 2010 the Board was notified of a name change from Western Career College to Carrington College California.
- On April 18, 2012, the following recommendations were approved:
  1. Approve Carrington Career College, Antioch, Vocational Nursing Program for a four-year period from April 11, 2011 to April 10, 2015, and issue a certificate accordingly.
  2. Approve the program's major curriculum revision from a four (4) term to a three (3) term program to include 1530 total hours, Theory - 576 hours, Clinical - 954.

3. Continue approval of the program's ongoing pattern of admissions to **replace** graduating classes only, with the following stipulations:
    - a. No additional classes are added to the program's current pattern of admissions without prior Board approval. The program's current pattern of admissions includes three (3) classes of thirty – six (36) students per year.
    - b. The director documents that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students.
    - c. The program's average annual pass rates remain no more than ten (10) percentage points below the state average annual pass rate.
- **On June 25, 2012, the Board approved B. Beale as program director.**
  - **On March 5, 2013, the Board approved P. Frazier as program director.**
  - **On July 22, 2013, the Board approved G. Walker as program director.**
  - On November 6, 2013, the Board noted the program's change in location, and subsequent name change, from Antioch to Pleasant Hill.
  - On July 21, 2014, the Board was notified of the name change from Carrington College of California to Carrington College.
  - On September 5, 2014, the Board was notified of the resignation of the program director
  - **On December 10, 2014, the Board approved P. Morgan as program director.** On this date the new director was requested to submit materials related to the Program Record Survey.
  - **On March 9, 2015, the Board approved A. Riner as program director.**
  - On July 7, 2015, the Board received the program's final documentation for the Program Record Survey.
  - On July 8, 2015, the Board received the program's improvement plan for pass rates on the licensure examination.
  - On July 30, 2015, the Acting Executive Officer approved the following:  
Continued approval of the Carrington College, Pleasant Hill, Vocational Nursing Program for a four-year period from April 11, 2015 to April 10, 2019, and issue a certificate accordingly, **and**, effective immediately, rescind approval for ongoing admissions and require the program to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of any students. The program must document adequacy of faculty and facilities to support the objectives of the program prior to the admission of students.
  - On February 17, 2016, the Acting Executive Officer approved the following:

Approve the Carrington College, Pleasant Hill, Vocational Nursing Program's request to admit one (1) class of **20** students, beginning March 21, 2016, graduating March 10, 2017, **only, and** continue the program's requirement to obtain Board approval prior to the admission of each class, **and**, continue to require the director to document that adequate resources, i.e. faculty and facilities, are available to support each admitted class of students, **and** place the Carrington College, Pleasant Hill, Vocational Nursing Program on the Board's May 2016 agenda for consideration of provisional approval.

- On April 8, 2016, the Board received written notification by the program that no students were admitted to the class scheduled to begin March 28, 2016. Further, the Carrington College, Pleasant Hill, Vocational Nursing Program has suspended all admissions and will close the program upon the July 8, 2016 graduation of the remaining students.



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April 8, 2016

Donna Johnson, RNP, MS, MA  
Board of Vocational Nursing & Psychiatric Technicians  
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Ms. Johnson:

This correspondence serves as official notice that the Vocational Nursing Program at Carrington College, Pleasant Hill campus in California, will suspend all future enrollments, effective immediately and close the Pleasant Hill Vocational Nursing Program. There were no students admitted in the BVNPT-approved 3/28/16 cohort start and there is one active cohort of 18 students who began the VN program on July 13, 2015 and will graduate on July 8, 2016. Carrington College will ensure that all 18 students will complete the program requirements prior to their graduation date of July 8, 2016.

The decision to suspend the Vocational Nursing Program at the Pleasant Hill Campus is primarily due to the following factors:

- This campus has had consistent difficulty in recruiting new students for the Vocational Nursing program; and
- This institutional decision will positively impact the amount of resources able to be allocated to the Vocational Nursing programs at the Sacramento, CA, and San Jose, CA, campuses.

I thank you for your counsel and support throughout my tenure as program director with Carrington College.

If you have any further questions, concerns or need for clarification please do not hesitate to contact me at my office: (925) 405-0622; mobile: (925) 951-3669 or via email at [ariner@carrington.edu](mailto:ariner@carrington.edu).

Respectfully,

Adam Riner, MSN/Ed, RN, CHPN  
Carrington College, Pleasant Hill Campus  
Vocational Nursing Program  
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December 28, 2015  
Donna Johnson, RNP, MS, MA  
Nursing Education Consultant  
Board of Vocational Nursing & Psychiatric Technicians  
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Ms. Johnson,

Please accept the following Status Report regarding the Carrington College Pleasant Hill campus Vocational Nursing NCLEX-PN Improvement Plan. This Status Report is in response to the BVNPT letter dated November 23, 2015 regarding the NCLEX pass rates which included the statement to provide a summary of the NCLEX improvement plan.

**Pleasant Hill Vocational Nursing NCLEX-PN Improvement Plan Status Report**

- In February 2015 the Pleasant Hill campus Vocational Nursing Program Director Adam Riner and Executive Director, Tiffany Clingshoff, implemented multiple actions (phone calls, e-mails, contacts with other graduates) to contact students that completed the VN Program in 2014. Contacts were made with 18 former students (no replies were received from other former students). The 18 former students were provided with access to NCLEX review resources, including Virtual ATI resources (including online learning modules and nurse educator coach) and campus-based NCLEX review support.
  - As of October 31, 2015, nine of the former students chose to participate in the live review held on campus and all nine were re-enrolled in the ATI virtual review. Two of the nine have tested and are awaiting results.
- Since March 2015 the Program Director and faculty have introduced the ATI NCLEX review products to students earlier in the program than what had been done for prior cohorts. The students are now receiving increased direction and support to foster greater utilization of the evidence-based ATI NCLEX review system during the 3<sup>rd</sup> term of the program.
- Individual coaching sessions have also been provided to existing and former students. These sessions have been provided based on the individual learning needs of the student/former student.



- Beginning in November 2015 the Program Director began providing an NCLEX preparation planning meeting prior to graduation. These are individual meetings held with students during which the student's progress and areas for increased remediation are reviewed. The meetings are conducted to assist students with guidance on using the NCLEX review resources and to develop a personalized review plan that will begin prior to graduation and be continued until the time of taking the NCLEX.
- The Pleasant Hill Career Services staff continues to conduct outreach activities (calls, e-mails, on-campus sessions) to promote graduates' participation in NCLEX review activities. The staff monitors the former students' participation in the ATI virtual NCLEX review sessions. Regularly, usually weekly, staff will attempt to contact the former students who have not participated in the review sessions and encourage participation. The Career Services team will notify the nursing team if a former student appears to require additional support (based on evidence of the student's use of the resources). The nursing team then work to engage the student and provide guidance to invest additional time for the student to increase NCLEX preparation activities. The Vocational Nursing Program Director, Career Services staff and campus administration meet biweekly to discuss each VN graduate, communication with graduates and efforts to identify and increase outreach to students identified as at risk of being unsuccessful on their NCLEX-PN exam.
- At the conclusion of each of the 2015 terms, the Pleasant Hill campus has hosted an ATI three day Live Review session for students completing Term 3 (graduating students).
  - Nineteen of the March 2015 graduating cohort students attended the March 30-April 1, 2015 ATI Live Review.
  - Twelve of the July 2015 graduating cohort students attended the July 27-29, 2015 ATI Live Review.
- Former students continue to receive access to ATI Virtual Review support (an ATI instructor facilitated on-line resource made available to all VN graduates) which provides specific NCLEX-PN review content and strategies. ATI virtual support is available for graduates from just prior to graduation and for 6 weeks post-graduation. The ATI access can be extended as needed based on a graduate's individual needs.



- The Pleasant Hill VN Program Director and faculty have scheduled the next NCLEX-PN review sessions beginning Thursday, January 19, 2016. The sessions will meet twice weekly for ten weeks. All graduates that have not yet tested are encouraged to attend and receive the latest Saunder's Comprehensive NCLEX-PN Review book at no cost.
- All review sessions and materials have been provided at no cost to the participants.
  - Beginning in March 2015 the VN Program Director began providing members of the VN faculty with initial orientation to the use of the existing ATI NCLEX review materials. This has now been completed with all VN faculty. Orientation to the ATI resources includes VN faculty being prepared to offer students more specific guidance on areas where remediation is needed to prepare for NCLEX success.
  - All students complete a Start, Stop, Continue engagement survey monthly. The survey data assists in adapting processes that can be of benefit to student learning.

### Curriculum

- Since March 2015 the nursing faculty have begun to increase the threading of content throughout curriculum as well as to assure alignment of exams to content from the NCLEX-PN test blueprint. Faculty received instruction in test construction. Furthermore, the exams were revised to align with the testing level of the NCLEX-PN with a majority of test items revised to be at the application cognitive level, or higher. All exams were also revised to have questions in alternate-item format.
- With the changes implemented since February 2015, there has been a significant increase in student performance on the HESI Exit Exam utilized in the Pleasant Hill Vocational Nursing program. The noticeable improvements can be seen in the below table which provides the cohort/class HESI averages for the past three graduating cohorts/classes. HESI deems a score of 850 acceptable and recommends a score of 900 or above. The HESI 9<sup>th</sup> Validity study found that students achieving 850 or better have more than a 95% chance of success on the NCLEX exam. This trend is anticipated to continue in a positive direction.



<u>Cohort</u>	<u>HESI Exit Exam Average</u>
March 2015 Graduating Cohort	684
July 2015 Graduating Cohort	802
November 2015 Graduating Cohort	856

- The HESI specialty exams are completed by students' as their comprehensive final exam covering the content for each course in the curriculum. The HESI exams produce a report for each student that notes areas of strength and weakness. Vocational Nursing faculty utilize these reports to adapt their instruction to address areas of weakness in future terms.

#### Faculty Orientation

- The faculty orientation was revised to provide an increased understanding of educational theory, instructional strategies, test construction and evaluation of learning outcomes. The enhancements to the orientation have included the use of DeVry Education Group's professional development courses, graduate-level education courses and access to professional development tools such as Ovid, NLN Journal and Nurse Tim courses.
- Vocational Nursing faculty complete one professional development activity each month to ensure continued growth in instructional capabilities. These activities include use of faculty development training modules that are provided through Carrington College, nursing education specific resources such as "Nurse Tim" and nursing resources from sites such as the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (ncsbn.org).
- VN faculty have been provided education resources to increase use of simulation education techniques in ways that reinforce key nursing concepts. Materials provided include professional standards for use of simulation education in preparing pre-licensure students for success.



- All faculty and students have been provided the NCSBN NCLEX-PN Blueprint. Faculty are using the document as a resource during the courses and in their teaching activities.

### Student Council

- Each cohort/class of VN students has two students elected to function as members of a student council. These students participate in monthly Program Director meetings to facilitate discussions regarding their experiences, any difficulties within the program, and provide suggestions regarding opportunities for improvement in the program and as to what processes currently in place are working well.

### Remediation and NCLEX-PN Preparation

These actions are currently being conducted:

- Use of remediation processes during each course (developing individual student success contracts and planned assessments for each student requiring remediation).
- Faculty conducting student progress reviews during each semester for each course being taught.
- Meetings with students identified as at risk for not attaining academic goals.
- Meetings with students, Student Success team and faculty to implement remediation plans.
- Since February 2015 the VN Program Director conducted assessments of all VN faculty and continues to conduct observations of faculty on a quarterly basis. Meetings have been conducted with the VN faculty individually and as a team to promote use of best teaching practices.



- Additional clinical placements have been secured since February 2015 and VN faculty are present with students during all clinical education experiences.

Summary:

Since the implementation of the Pleasant Hill Vocational Nursing NCLEX Improvement Plan, multiple meetings have been held regarding the Improvement Plan interventions including increasing the use of the ATI resources and the implementation of the HESI evaluation resources. The interventions implemented throughout 2015 have proven to increase student performance during the program; and, outreach efforts have been heavily increased to ensure graduates stay engaged in preparation while they await authorization to test.

Carrington College Pleasant Hill is dedicated to the success of our Vocational Nursing students and we are committed to improving our pass rates to ensure our students' success.

Thank you for your guidance. Please contact me if you require further information. You may reach me at [ariner@carrington.edu](mailto:ariner@carrington.edu) or 925-405-0622.

Sincerely,

Adam Riner, MSN/Ed, RN, CHPN  
Carrington College Pleasant Hill  
Vocational Nursing Program Director  
380 Civic Dr, Ste 300  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523



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April 8, 2016

Donna Johnson, RNP, MS, MA  
Board of Vocational Nursing & Psychiatric Technicians  
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Ms. Johnson:

This correspondence serves as official notice that the Vocational Nursing Program at Carrington College, Pleasant Hill campus in California, will suspend all future enrollments, effective immediately and close the Pleasant Hill Vocational Nursing Program. There were no students admitted in the BVNPT-approved 3/28/16 cohort start and there is one active cohort of 18 students who began the VN program on July 13, 2015 and will graduate on July 8, 2016. Carrington College will ensure that all 18 students will complete the program requirements prior to their graduation date of July 8, 2016.

The decision to suspend the Vocational Nursing Program at the Pleasant Hill Campus is primarily due to the following factors:

- This campus has had consistent difficulty in recruiting new students for the Vocational Nursing program; and
- This institutional decision will positively impact the amount of resources able to be allocated to the Vocational Nursing programs at the Sacramento, CA, and San Jose, CA, campuses.

I thank you for your counsel and support throughout my tenure as program director with Carrington College.

If you have any further questions, concerns or need for clarification please do not hesitate to contact me at my office: (925) 405-0622; mobile: (925) 951-3669 or via email at [ariner@carrington.edu](mailto:ariner@carrington.edu).

Respectfully,

Adam Riner, MSN/Ed, RN, CHPN  
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Vocational Nursing Program  
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Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
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