

March 20, 2014

Dr. Wanda Thomas
Associate Provost
Kent State University
Office of the Provost
P.O. Box 5190
Kent, Ohio 44242

Dear Dr. Thomas,

We strongly support the development of your Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care completion program, soon to be offered at Kent State University at Ashtabula. Respiratory therapists (RTs) are specialists in the area of airway management and breathing support for patients and are relied upon by Physicians and Nurses to deliver exemplary patient care.

The recent changes within the profession have only increased the need for Bachelor prepared therapists. Effective January 2015, the credential required to practice in the State of Ohio will be the RRT (Registered Respiratory Therapist). The three major national organizations of the profession, the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care, the National Board for Respiratory Care and the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) have agreed that development of baccalaureate programs are important for the advancement of the profession. The AARC's 2015 and Beyond Project has determined that for RTs to provide proper necessary care, a Bachelor degree is necessary and will be required for entry level practice by the year 2020.

The recent changes in healthcare have increased the need for institutions to improve patient outcomes and Bachelor prepared therapists have advanced critical thinking skills and are skilled in incorporating best practices into the care therapists provide patients.

Should the profession transition to a Bachelor degree for practice level profession the need for this completion program will be vital to enable Associate level therapists to complete their education. Because this program will be offered online, I know that current practitioners will be interested in exploring this new opportunity.

Again, we wholeheartedly support this new program and look forward to the opportunity to hire graduates from this program..

Sincerely,



Steven Slaughter
Manager Respiratory Therapy
University Hospitals Case Medical Center



March 4, 2014

Dr. Wanda Thomas
Associate Provost
Kent State University
Office of the Provost
P.O. Box 5190
Kent, Ohio 44242

Dear Dr. Thomas,

We strongly support the development of your Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care completion program, soon to be offered at Kent State University at Ashtabula; respiratory therapists (RTs) are specialists in the area of airway management and breathing support for patients and are relied upon by Physicians and Nurses to deliver exemplary patient care.

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Should the profession transition to a Bachelor degree for practice level profession the need for this completion program will be vital to enable Associate level therapists to complete their education. The online format for this program is most desirable among professional therapists looking to complete their education. Southern State Community College has a strong tradition of working with our university partners to create seamless pathways for our graduates to obtain a Bachelor degree. We look forward to sharing this exciting opportunity with our students.

Please keep me updated on the status of the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Boys", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Boys, Ed.D
President

February 27, 2014

Dr. Wanda Thomas
Associate Provost
Kent State University
Office of the Provost
P.O. Box 5190
Kent, Ohio 44242

Dear Dr. Thomas,

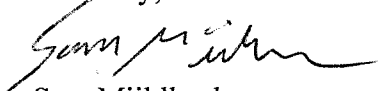
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Should the profession transition to a Bachelor degree for practice level profession the need for this completion program will be vital to enable Associate level therapists to complete their education. Again, we wholeheartedly support this new program and look forward to the opportunity to hire graduates from this program. Because this program will be offered online, I know that current staff will be interested in exploring this new opportunity.

Please keep me updated on the status of the program.

Sincerely,



Sam Miihlbach
Respiratory Therapy Manager
The MetroHealth System

**Ashtabula County
Medical Center**

ACMC Healthcare System

An affiliate of



February 27, 2014

Dr. Wanda Thomas
Associate Provost
Kent State University
Office of the Provost
P.O. Box 5190
Kent, Ohio 44242

Dear Dr. Thomas,

We are pleased to support the development of your Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care completion program, soon to be offered at Kent State University at Ashtabula. As changes in healthcare have increased the need for institutions to improve patient outcomes, Bachelor prepared therapists have the advanced critical thinking skills and the abilities to incorporate best practices that are needed to provide the best quality care to patients.

Respiratory therapists (RTs) are specialists in the area of airway management and breathing support for patients and are relied upon by Physicians and Nurses to deliver quality patient care. In the past, Ashtabula County Medical Center has worked closely with Kent State Ashtabula on the development of competent and caring professionals that are well equipped for the working environment. We know that at Bachelor's degree program will only enhance the already exemplary Respiratory Care Professionals that Kent State Ashtabula has been graduating and that we have been employing.

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If the profession is transitioned to a Bachelor level profession, the need for this program will be vital to enable Associate level therapist's the opportunity to complete their education. Currently there are approximately 444 schools across the country that offer a degree in Respiratory Therapy of which only 11% (49) offer a Bachelor degree.

Again, we enthusiastically support this new program and look forward to the opportunity to hire graduates from Kent State University at Ashtabula..

Sincerely,

Melissa A. Shanley; CRT, BSM/ Director of Respiratory Therapy
Ashtabula County Medical Center

2420 Lake Avenue
Ashtabula, OH 44004

Phone 440.997.2262
Fax 440.997.6644
www.acmchealth.org



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

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<http://www.aarc.org>, E-mail: info@aarc.org

April 22, 2013

David Goswick, MPA, RRT
Director, Respiratory Therapy Technology Program
Kent State University/Ashtabula
3300 Lake Road West
Ashtabula, OH 44004

Dear Mr. Goswick,

I want to take this opportunity to offer the support of the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) for your 2+2 Bachelor of Science degree in Respiratory Care (BSRC). The AARC has gone on record to promote the advanced level credential (RRT) for the Respiratory Therapist as well as advanced degrees in Respiratory Care or other Health Science. As you know, the AARC launched an initiative called 2015 and Beyond and your goal is in step with this vision for the future. A seamless transition via a 2+2 option will allow for an easier access to higher education. It appears that you are providing this in your program.

This option, once available for the Registered Respiratory Therapist, should be well-received by the profession and I applaud you for your foresight in considering an option that allows graduates of a CoARC accredited associate degree program in respiratory care to advance to a BSRC. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the foregoing or if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Thomas Kallstrom'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large 'T' and 'K'.

Thomas Kallstrom, MBA, RRT, FAARC
Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer
American Association for Respiratory Care



7700 Clocktower Drive, Kirtland, Ohio 44094-5198 • 440/525-7000

January 28, 2013

To Whom it may concern;

I am happy to write a letter of support for Kent State University, Ashtabula campus Respiratory Care Program. When this program was first proposed I had serious concerns about another two-year program in northeast Ohio. What I really wanted to see was a bachelors program in Respiratory Care offered online. The area really needs this opportunity especially in light of the new goals for the AARC, and I am very happy to see it is coming from the Kent State University campus.

Lakeland Community College has an affiliation agreement with the KSU Ashtabula campus in place and adding the respiratory program will be a simple addition. I currently serve as a liaison for the two colleges through Lakeland's Holden University Center partnerships.

David and Amy are capable and fine instructors; both taught with this program before accepting positions at Kent State University. I look forward to working with them in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Kenny".

Catherine Kenny, Ph.D., R.R.T.
Director,
Respiratory Therapy Program