



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.

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.

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", written in a cursive style.

Kevin Boys, Ed.D
 President

