

Dear Future of Nursing Evaluation and Impact Study Committee:

The Community College Baccalaureate Association (CCBA) and the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (OADN) support the work of the Institute of Medicine's *Future of Nursing* report published in 2010. Both organizations have been involved in the recommendations of the report, but specifically the recommendation increasing the percentage of registered nurses (RNs) with a BSN degree to 80% by the year 2020. Both CCBA and OADN did present to the committee, and have jointly prepared this letter as follow-up to our comments.

Currently, 51% of nurses in the United States have a BSN degree, and 57% percent of nurses begin their nursing education at a community college, graduating with an associate degree (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2013). The Center to Champion Nursing in America has supported the community college offering the RN to BSN as a model. In some parts of the country the RN to BSN program being offered at the community college is a very viable option. However, this is not possible in all parts of the country, due to legislative barriers and university concerns with mission and quality. Community colleges in this country traditionally have addressed workforce need. This is a workforce need issue with health care facilities requiring or preferring the BSN. Additionally, RN to BSN programs at community colleges are accredited by a national nursing accredited body, and therefore quality is monitored and evaluated on a continual basis. Research has demonstrated better patient outcomes when cared for by BSN prepared nurses. CCBA and OADN believe all regions of the country should have access to quality healthcare with BSN degree nurses. Community colleges are well-positioned to provide this educational access to offer the RN to BSN.

Consistent with the IOM recommendations, transforming nursing education remains a priority to facilitate meeting the evolving and increasingly complex demands of the health care system in

the United States. Community colleges are contributing to building the nursing workforce and must continue to play a role in preparing the nursing workforce. This strategy should include granting community colleges the ability to offer the baccalaureate degree to meet the goal of having 80% of nurses educated to the BSN level by 2020.

According to the 2010 IOM report "Community colleges have an important role to play in ensuring that more BSN-prepared nurses are available in all regions of the United States and prepares associate degree nurses to move on to higher levels of education." Community colleges still continue to have this important role, and academic progression is imperative as employer demand continues for the BSN.

CCBA and OADN would like to request the strategy of community colleges having the opportunity to offer the RN to BSN as part of the impact study on the *Future of Nursing*. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

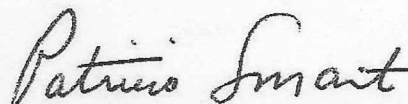
Sincerely,



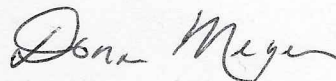
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