



SCHOOL OF NURSING

TELEPHONE: (850) 599-3017  
FAX: (850) 599-3508

April 12, 2018

Dear Alumni and Friends:

The School of Nursing has started the implementation of a new plan to bring our programs in alignment with the University's strategic priorities, as well as state and national standards. I would like to provide you with some background information on how the process began, in an effort to keep you abreast of the positive changes we expect to occur at the School of Nursing.

In 2016, changes were made to the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) procedures. The content of the test changed and case integrated questions were added, instead of the historical multiple-choice questions.

After careful review, we believe that these changes impacted the School of Nursing's first-time passage rate as well as scores for schools of nursing nationally. As a result, our undergraduate nursing education program did not achieve graduate passage rates that equal or exceed the required state passage rates for two consecutive calendar years. Pursuant to a newly passed Florida Statute (June 2017), the Florida nursing board has placed the program on a two-year probationary status. We plan to make the necessary adjustments and improvements needed to increase our scores within this next reporting period, with a goal of completing the probationary period within a year.

Please know that the probationary status in no way has affected our accreditation status; we are still an accredited program. In addition, our students will still be able to take the exam and become licensed professionals during this time.

In 2015, the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) granted continuing accreditation to the master's nursing program, including the post-master's certificate. In March of 2018, an ACEN committee conducted a site visit to review our Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs and is recommending to the national ACEN board that we be granted continuing accreditation with conditions for improvement. We will know more about the conditions in August 2018 and will provide updates at that time.

After thoroughly reviewing the NCLEX updates and working with University leadership, the nursing school's new leadership team immediately went to work drafting an action plan that is designed to ensure our licensure passage rates meet and exceed the state and national average. This plan has been presented to the state board and our Board of Trustees.

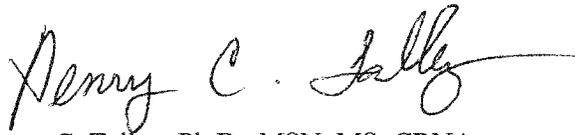
Our measurable objectives for the plan are as follows:

1. Revise the curriculum
2. Improve performance in high failure rate courses
3. Raise the academic profile of incoming students
4. Provide test preparation services and resources
5. Provide professional development for faculty on pedagogical best practices

We have already begun implementing the action plan and project that the first-time passage rates, over the next four testing windows, will increase and our students will reap the benefits throughout their college and professional experience.

Your encouragement and support mean a lot to us, and we look forward to sharing positive results soon. As always, we welcome your input and involvement in maintaining the level of excellence each SON student deserves. We look forward to training excellent nursing professionals for another 80 years.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry C. Talley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Henry C. Talley, Ph.D., MSN, MS, CRNA  
Dean and Professor