

**REPORT OF SURVEY VISIT
SOUTHWEST TEXAS JUNIOR COLLEGE IN UVALDE, TEXAS
ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider report of survey visit to Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) in Uvalde, Texas to evaluate the physical resources for the new Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program to beginning June 2008.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- SWTJC in Uvalde, Texas received Initial Approval for a new Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program at the October 2007 Board meeting.
- Initially the program planned to begin classes in January 2008 but delays in reconstruction of the building pushed the date for the start of the program to the summer session.
- Staff postponed the site visit until the building was near completion.
- Board staff conducted the survey visit May 12-13, 2008 to tour the facilities and to review program materials with the director.

SUMMARY OF SURVEY VISIT:

- A survey visit was conducted by J. Hooper on May 12-13, 2008.
- The survey visit included meetings with:
 - Geraldine Goosen, PhD, RN, APRN, proposed Director of the LVN to ADN Program
 - Dr. Ismael Sosa, Jr., President
 - Dr. Blaine Bennett, Dean of Institutional Advancement and Technology
 - Hector E. Gonzales, Dean of Institutional Services & Chief Financial Officer
 - Karen Baen, Chair, Library
 - Juan Guzman, Technical Education Director
 - Liza Hurtado, BSN, RN, Nursing Faculty
- Board staff toured the facilities and reviewed:
 - Total Program Evaluation Plan
 - Minutes of Faculty Meetings
 - Syllabi
 - Student Files
- Tour of the remodeled building to house nursing and radiology verified that the physical spaces meet the requirements in Rule 215 and will provide a good learning environment for the programs.
- Staff reviewed the status of syllabi and learning materials and found that they are in order to begin the program.
- Staff reviewed the Total Program Evaluation Plan and suggested the program maintain ongoing evaluation data for program revision.
- There is a tremendous need in the community for this program and support from the community leaders.
- The program meets on a regular basis with their advisory committee who provide additional support and encouragement.

- Staff reviewed the faculty situation based upon information in the proposal.
 - Though there were a number of potential qualified faculty when the proposal was presented to the Board, several of them have changed their plans with the delay in program implementation.
 - In reality it is unlikely that MSN-prepared nurses will relocate to Uvalde to teach in the program.
 - Besides Dr. Goosen, there is one fully qualified nursing faculty for the ADN program and several MSN prepared nurses willing to provide adjunct instruction and guest lectures.
 - The director and administration at SWTJC realize that there must be a “grow your own” effort to increase the number of available full time faculty members.
 - The program is requesting a waiver for one BSN prepared faculty member engaged in MSN studies to provide adequate instructional staff for the present.
 - The college offers release time and a car to faculty pursuing advanced education.
 - The college is seeking other incentives to encourage faculty to pursue advanced degrees.

PROS:

- The administration is very supportive of the nursing programs at SWTJC.
- Funding from a \$2 million grant from the Department of Labor has provided assistance in developing this program.
- SWTJC has applied for an extension of the grant.
- The newly reconstructed building which will house nursing and radiology will provide excellent space.
- The skills lab will be upgraded for a state-of-the art nursing lab.
- A separate simulation lab with an observation room is included in the building.
- The program director continues to find new clinical settings for student practice.
- Twenty-three qualified applicants have been admitted to the program for the first cohort.

CONS:

- Several of the qualified potential faculty have declined from joining the program.
- One available potential faculty member is engaged in pursuing her MSN and the director is requesting a waiver so she may serve as faculty in the program (See Agenda Item 3.2.9).
- The greatest challenge will be building a qualified nursing faculty group.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to accept the report of the survey visit to Southwest Texas Junior College at Uvalde, Texas and issue the commendation and recommendation in the attached letter (Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

July 21, 2008

Geraldine M. Goosen, PhD, CNS, RN
Director, Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program
Southwest Texas Junior College
2401 Garner Field Road
Uvalde, Texas 78801

Dear Dr. Goosen:

At the July 17-18, 2008 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered the report providing a summary of the survey visit on May 12-13, 2008 to Southwest Texas Junior College at Uvalde.

It was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the survey visit and issue the following commendation and recommendation:

Commendation:

The college administration are commended for their support for this program.

Recommendation:

The program has designed a plan for Total Program Evaluation. Since this is a new program, the importance of monitoring the effectiveness of the program through ongoing evaluation will provide valuable feedback for program planning and revision. **Therefore**, the program is encouraged to be diligent in collecting evaluation data for program development and make this plan with data available to board staff prior to change in approval status.

A recommendation is a suggestion based upon program assessment indirectly related to the rules to which the program must respond but in a method of their choosing.

If you have questions or if board staff can be of assistance, please contact them at (512) 305-6814 or email to janice.hooper@bon.state.tx.us. Best wishes as you proceed with the first class of this new Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Blaine Bennett, PhD, Dean of Institutional Advancement and Technology, SWTJC
Juan Guzman, MEd, Technical Education Director, SWTJC
Donna Carlin, MSN, RN, THECB