

**PETITION FOR WAIVER OF DEAN/DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS
HOWARD COLLEGE at BIG SPRING, TEXAS
ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider the request from Howard College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program for a waiver of director qualifications on behalf of Luci Gabehart, MSN, RN and the recommendation from the Education Liaison Committee (ELC) regarding the petition.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- Howard College established an associate degree nursing educational program in January 1976.
- Howard College offers a generic Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) educational program that is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission through 2015.
- In September 2008, Dr. Amy Burchett, Vice President of Instruction of Howard College, requested approval for Luci Gabehart, MSN, RN to be approved as Director of the ADN Program subsequent to former director Jessica Greni's unexpected resignation from the position in August 2008.
- Ms. Gabehart holds a Master's degree in nursing.
- All required documents, credentials and transcripts for Ms. Gabehart are in order.
- Ms. Gabehart was employed at Howard College as a Clinical Teaching Assistant from April 2006 to October 2006 and as a Nursing Instructor from October 2006 until September 2008.
- The petition for waiver of Dean/Director Qualifications for Ms. Gabehart to be approved as the Director of the ADN program at Howard College was referred to the ELC for review as Rule 215.6(f)(4) requires that the dean or director shall have a minimum of three years teaching experience in a professional nursing education program.
- Members of the ELC recommended approval of the waiver, with the recommendation that Ms. Gabehart be mentored by a Director of Nursing from another associate degree in nursing educational program.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros:

- Ms. Gabehart has worked at Howard College in the Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program since April 2006.
- The Howard College ADN Program's NCLEX-RN® pass rates for the past three (3) years are as follows:

YEAR	APPROVAL STATUS	NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rates	Howard College First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2007	Full	87.50%	7/8
2006	Full	100%	11/11
2005	Full	90.91%	10/11

Cons:

- Ms. Gabehart does not have three (3) years teaching experience in a professional nursing educational program.

EDUCATION LIAISON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The ELC members unanimously voted to recommend approval of the waiver of director qualifications for the appointment of Luci Gabehart, MSN, RN as Director of the Howard College Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program. Additionally, ELC members recommended that Ms. Gabehart be mentored by a director from another associate degree nursing educational program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to accept the waiver of director qualifications regarding the appointment of Luci Gabehart, MSN, RN as Director of the Howard College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program, as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment One), with the requirement that Ms. Gabehart be mentored by a director from another associate degree nursing educational program.

DRAFT LETTER

October 27, 2008

Amy Burchett, EdD
Vice President of Instruction
Howard College
1001 Birdwell Lane
Big Spring, Texas 79720

Dear Dr. Burchett:

This letter is to notify you that your request for approval to appoint Luci Gabehart, MSN, RN as Director of the Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program for Howard College and the Petition for Waiver of Director Required Qualifications was reviewed at the October 23-24, 2008 meeting of the Board of Nursing.

Based upon the documentation and the recommendation from the Education Liaison Committee of the Board, it was the decision of the Board to approve the appointment of Luci Gabehart, MSN, RN as Director of the Associate Degree Nursing Educational Program at Howard College effective September 2008, with the following requirement to be met:

REQUIREMENT:

Ms. Gabehart must be actively involved in a mentoring plan with a director from another associate degree in nursing program.

A requirement is a mandatory criteria based on program assessment directly related to the rule that shall be addressed in the manner prescribed.

Be assured that our staff is available to assist Ms. Gabehart in her new role as Director in any way feasible. Rule 215.6(h) requires newly appointed directors to attend an orientation provided by the Board. Board staff will advise Ms. Gabehart of the details of the next scheduled orientation in a separate correspondence.

If additional information is needed, please contact board staff at (512)305-7660 or via email at virginia.ayars@bon.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

Virginia D. Ayars, MS, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Luci Gabehart, MSN, RN