

**Proposal to Establish A New Nursing Education Program
Bell Tech Career Institute in Houston, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the Bell Tech Career Institute proposal to establish a new vocational nursing (VN) education program in Houston, Texas, and the report of the survey visit (See Attachment #1). The final revised proposal was made available online to members of the Board. A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #3).

Historical Perspective:

- Bell Tech Career Institute, a private educational program, is seeking to establish a new, not-for-profit vocational nursing (VN) program in Houston, Texas.
- The controlling agency for Bell Tech Career Institute is Bell Tech Enterprises. The company has been doing business in the Houston area since 1995 providing a variety of health related services including home health and respite care, day habilitation programs, medical equipment, case management services, as well as several group homes for the mentally challenged.
- In 2002 Bell Tech received authorization from Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) for the establishment of a certified nurse aid (CNA) program. The name of the school is Bell Tech Training School, and averages graduating five (5) CNA students monthly.
- Bell Tech initially employed a nursing consultant to assist in writing the proposal, while the proposed director for the VN program was identified late in the proposal process.
- Board staff had several telephone conferences, as well as a face-to-face meetings with Ms. Bobby Greenwood, RN, MSN proposed program director, and owners of Bell Tech, Ms. KiKe Bello, RN, and Mr. Raffy Bell.
- A site visit was conducted on September 30, 2011, by Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN, CLNC.

Summary of Proposal:

Overview of the Proposal:

- The program is designed to be delivered in a twelve (12) month, 1588 hour curriculum.
- An initial cohort of thirty (30) students is projected for the November, 2011 enrollment. The program plans to admit 60 students in years two (2) and three (3); eighty (80) in year four; and one hundred (100) in year five (5).
- The projected graduation date for the first cohort will be November, 2012.
- All classes will be conducted in a face-to-face format with clinical experiences in health care facilities throughout Houston and the surrounding area.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- The data in the proposal does not demonstrate a strong need for the establishment of a new vocational nursing program. The proposal identifies twelve (12) VN programs in Houston, with five (5) of the programs within a twenty-five (25) mile radius of Bell Tech.

Administration and Organization:

- Bobby Greenwood, MS, RN, will assume the director role for the VN program. Ms. Greenwood is an experienced educator having taught for eighteen years in associate degree nursing programs in the Houston Community College District.
- Bell Tech administration has pledged support for the program.

Students:

- Program representatives report that a large number of potential students are ready to apply to enter this program, including graduates from the Bell Tech CNA program.
- The Student Handbook includes all required student policies in Rule 214.

Availability of Faculty and Clinical Sites:

- The proposal has identified nine (9) interested, qualified, and experienced faculty to provide instruction for the program. Eight (8) of the potential faculty applicants have teaching experience in prelicensure nursing education.
- The Faculty Handbook includes all required policies outlined in Rule 214, as well as many policies to assist faculty with consistency in their role.
- The nursing program has secured a variety of clinical learning experiences, and has clinical agreements or letters of intent from twenty three (23) clinical affiliating agencies.
- Clinical evaluation tools include required progression in expected student behaviors across the curriculum.

Financial Support and Resources:

- The Bell Tech Career Institute campus offers adequate student services.
- The Nursing Department is adequate in space and equipment.
- A financial report from Bell Tech Career Institute, included in the proposal, reflects adequate resources for the development and implementation of the nursing program.

Program of Study:

- The curriculum meets the requirements of the rule.
- The DEC's are woven throughout the program, into courses and clinical evaluation tools. DEC competencies are detailed in each course and tailored to the different courses and clinical specialties.
- Each clinical course includes skills lab and simulation experience components to prepare the student for safe, competent and confident bedside nursing practice in the direct patient care setting.
- Clinical evaluation tools demonstrate progression in expectations of student outcomes across the curriculum.
- Clinical learning experiences will be provided in all required study content areas.

Total Evaluation Plan:

- The program's total evaluation plan includes the required components to meet Rule 214.13.

Comments from Survey Visit:

Staff met with the proposed director of the program and administration. The college is located in the center of an industrial complex, and is housed in a spacious building with ample parking and convenient access to public transportation. The nursing program has a fully equipped skills lab and the classrooms are fully furnished and equipped.

Pros:

- The administration have committed resources to the implementation of the program.
- The space allocated to the nursing program is ample in size and adequately equipped.
- The proposed director is fully qualified and experienced in prelicensure nursing education.
- The proposal identifies nine (9) interested and fully qualified faculty for the new nursing program.
- A wide variety of clinical learning experiences throughout the Houston area have been secured for the nursing program.

Cons:

- Data presented in the proposal fails to demonstrate a strong need for a new VN program in the Houston area.

The Staff recommendation is based upon the fact that the proposal has met the requirements in Rule 214.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to grant initial approval to Bell Tech Career Institute in Houston, Texas with an initial cohort of 30 students beginning in November 2011, with the next admission in 2012 of thirty students, based upon the proposal and survey visit as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #2).

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
SURVEY VISIT PROGRAM REPORT**

Vocational Nursing Education Program

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Bell Tech Career Institute Vocational Nursing Program

PROPOSED DIRECTOR Bobby Greenwood, MS, RN

REASON FOR SURVEY: New Proposal

DATE: September 30, 2011

SURVEY VISITOR(S): Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN, CLNC

VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION: none

In this report the nursing program met standards and criteria unless otherwise indicated by narrative. Narrative in the Evidence column documents findings of pertinent data, outstanding performance, or deficiencies. Narrative in the Comments column includes recommendations or requirements to be met based on analysis of the survey visit

§214.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services	Evidence	Comments
(a) The controlling agency/governing institution shall be responsible for providing: (1) educational facilities, (2) resources, and (3) services which support the effective development and implementation of the nursing education program.	Strong administrative support was evident during the survey visit. Board Staff met with owners Ms. Kike Bello and Mr. Raffy Bell	Criteria met.
(b) An appropriately equipped skills laboratory shall be provided to accommodate maximum number of students allowed for the program. (1) The laboratory shall be equipped with hot and cold running water. (2) The laboratory shall have adequate storage for equipment.	Two- four bed nursing skills labs are fully-equipped, with state-of-the-art simulation capabilities, hot and cold water, and adequate storage space.	Criteria met.
(c)The director/coordinator and faculty shall have adequate secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program.	Secretarial and clerical staff identified.	Criteria met

<p>(d) The physical facilities shall be adequate to meet the needs of the program in relation to the size of the faculty and the student body.</p> <p>(1) The director/coordinator shall have a private office.</p> <p>(2) Faculty offices shall be conveniently located and adequate in number and size to provide faculty with privacy for conferences with students and uninterrupted work.</p> <p>(3) Space for clerical staff, records, files, and equipment shall be adequate.</p> <p>(4) There shall be mechanisms which provide for the security of sensitive materials, such as examinations and health records.</p> <p>(5) Classrooms, laboratories, and conference rooms shall be conducive to learning and adequate in number, size, and type for the number of students and the educational purposes for which the rooms are used.</p> <p>(6) Teaching aids shall be provided to meet the objectives/outcomes of the program.</p> <p>(7) Adequate restrooms and lounges shall be provided convenient to the classroom.</p>	<p>Board Staff toured the Bell Tech campus.</p> <p>The nursing department contained a private office for the director, faculty workroom and conference room, faculty and student break areas, a spacious, modern classroom and computer lab, as well as two fully- equipped nursing skills lab.</p> <p>Adequate mechanisms for security of materials identified .</p> <p>State-of-the-art technology was present to assist student learning.</p> <p>Restrooms and lounges are conveniently located near classrooms.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>(e) The learning resources, library, and departmental holdings shall be current, use contemporary technology appropriate for the level of the curriculum, and be sufficient for the size of the student body and the needs of the faculty.</p> <p>(1) Provisions shall be made for accessibility, availability, and timely delivery of information resources.</p> <p>(2) Facilities and policies shall promote effective use, i.e. environment, accessibility, and hours of operation.</p>	<p>Board staff toured the small physical library. Students will have 24 hour access to the nursing department's virtual library</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>§214.12 Records and Reports</p>		
<p>(a) Accurate and current records shall be maintained for a minimum of two (2) years in a confidential manner and be accessible to appropriate parties, including Board representatives. These records shall include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>(1) records of current students;</p> <p>(2) faculty records;</p> <p>(3) administrative records, which include minutes of faculty meetings for the past three years, and school catalogs;</p> <p>(4) the current program of study and curriculum including mission and goals (philosophy and outcomes), and course outlines;</p> <p>(5) agreements with affiliating agencies; and</p> <p>(6) the master plan of evaluation with most recent data collection.</p>	<p>Maintenance and storage of documents were discussed during the survey visit.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>(b) Record forms may be developed by an individual school</p>	<p>Discussed during survey visit.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>(c) Hospital employment forms are not to be used for student records.</p>	<p>Discussed during survey visit.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>(d) Records shall be safely stored to prevent loss, destruction, or unauthorized use.</p>	<p>Discussed during survey visit.</p>	<p>Criteria met</p>

DRAFT LETTER

October 31, 2011

Bobby Greenwood, MS, RN, Director
Bell Tech Career Institute Vocational Nursing Program
12000 Richmond, Suite 130
Houston, Texas 77082

Dear Ms. Greenwood:

At the October 27, 2011 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) discussed the Bell Tech Career Institute Proposal to Establish a New Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas, and the report of the September 30, 2011 survey visit. The members of the Board wish to thank you and Dr. Fay McClay, Mr. Eugene Vecera, Ms. Kike Bello, and Mr. Raffy Bell, for being present to answer questions.

As indicated by the enclosed order, it was the Board's decision to grant Initial Approval status to Bell Tech Career Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program, Houston, Texas, and to allow an initial admission of 30 students in Fall 2011, with the next admission in 2012 of 30 students.

Congratulations and best wishes.

If you have questions, or if we may be of assistance, please contact Board Staff at (512) 463-4613.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN
President of the Board

Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN, CLNC,
Nursing Consultant for Education

**Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942**

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING
IN AND FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the matter of the proposal of Bell Tech Career Institute
in Houston, Texas

For approval to implement a Vocational Nursing Education Program

ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: Bell Tech Career Institute

The Board of Nursing in and for the State of Texas in a regularly scheduled meeting, held on the 27th day of October 2011, considered the proposal for authority to implement a Vocational Nursing Education Program and obtain Approval from the Board, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code.

At the meeting, Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN, President of the Board, presided and the following members were present:

Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC, Consumer Member
Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, SPHR, Consumer Member
Marilyn J. Davis, RN, BSN, MPA, Representing Practice
Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN, Representing Practice
Kathy Leader-Horn, LVN, Representing Practice
Mary LeBeck, MSN, RN, Representing ADN Programs
Josefina Lujan, PhD, RN, Representing BSN Programs
Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN, Representing Practice
Mary Jane Salgado, MEd, Consumer Member
Verna Kathleen Shipp, APN, RN, Representing Advanced Nursing Practice

The Board reviewed the proposal of the above school and after having discussed the proposal in an open public meeting, the Board makes the following findings:

FINDINGS

1. That a written proposal has been filed with said Board.
2. That a public meeting on said proposal was held to take testimony and evidence by the Board.
3. That the written proposal does meet the minimum requirements for proceeding with the development of an approved program offering a Vocational Degree in Nursing.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT, the proposal of Bell Tech Career Institute is approved having been found to comply with minimum requirements for establishing a Vocational Nursing Education Program to prepare vocational nurses.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE aforementioned school is authorized to proceed to implement a professional nursing education program and prior to admission of students, all requirements of Chapter 214 Vocational Nursing Education shall be met.

DATED THIS 30th day of October, 2011.

THE BOARD OF NURSING IN AND
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

Seal

By:

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN
President

BOARD OF NURSING FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460

Austin, Texas 78701-3942

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

Consideration of a Proposal from Bell Tech Career Institute

To Establish A

Vocational Nursing Education Program

in Houston, Texas

Date and Time :October 27, 2011 at 2:15 PM

Place: Hobby Building

333 Guadalupe Street

Tower 2, Room 225

Austin, Texas

The Board will hear testimony from individuals who wish to present information concerning the proposal.

Written testimony will also be considered and should be received in the Board's office by October 14, 2011.

Address written testimony to:

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director

Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460

Austin, Texas 78701-3942