

**Report of Regular Survey Visit  
Trinity Valley Community College in Kaufman, Texas  
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request**

Consider the report of the July 31, 2012, routine six year survey visit to Trinity Valley Community College in Kaufman, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program. The last survey visit was August 2003.

**Historical Perspective:**

- The Trinity Valley Community College (TVCC) Health Science Center, of Kaufman was built in 1983.
- Besides housing the Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program, current program offerings include the following: Associate Degree Nursing, LVN-to-ADN Transition, Paramedic-to-ADN Transition, Surgical Technology, Emergency Medical Services, and Patient Care Technology.
- General education courses for the health occupations programs are offered in Athens on the main campus, at the Terrell campus, and the Palestine campus.

The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past five (5) years are provided in the table:

<b>Exam Year</b>	<b>NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate</b>	<b>Number of First- Time Candidates (Passed/Total)</b>	<b>BON Approval Status</b>
2011	91.67%	22/24	Full
2010	100%	18/18	Full
2009	95.24%	20/21	Full
2008	92.86%	26/28	Full
2007	93.33%	14/15	Full

- Helen Reid, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE has been the director of the VN program since 1983 and has earned certification as a nurse educator.
- Dr. Reid became Dean in 1990 and later her title was changed to Provost of the Kaufman Campus. As the provost, she is in charge of the Kaufman building as well as being the Dean of Health Occupations which includes the ADN, LVN-to ADN Transition, Paramedic-to-ADN Transition, LVN, Surgical Technology, EMS, and Patient Care Technology programs.
- She is accountable for the VN programs in Kaufman and Palestine.
- One (1) full-time and one (1) part-time faculty teach in the VN program in Kaufman.
- Jason Smith is Coordinator for the Kaufman VN program and carries a full teaching load. Dr. Reid completes all of the reports to the BON.
- The program at Kaufman admits one (1) cohort of twenty (20) to twenty-four (24) students each January. The program has the capacity and faculty to admit twenty (20) to twenty-four (24) students annually. There are currently seventeen (17) students in Level II.

Findings from the survey visit (See Attachment #1) indicated that the program is in compliance with Rule 214.

**Pros and Cons from Survey Visit:**

## Pros:

- The VN program has strong leadership, instruction, and administrative support.
- The program on the Kaufman campus consists of one (1) full-time and one (1) part-time faculty member. Faculty turnover rates are low.
- Students interviewed expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the program and confidence that the coordinator and faculty are committed to their success.
- The program meets a need in the community for a vocational nursing education program and receives strong support from clinical affiliates. The program has a number of contracts with clinical affiliating agencies which provide a variety of clinical experiences for the curriculum.
- All clinical learning experiences occur in faculty supervised, direct-patient care, hands-on, clinical settings. The program utilizes simulation to prepare students for clinical practice and for remediation purposes.

## Cons:

- There had been previous plans for expansion of the Health Occupations building in summer 2012, but they did not occur. There are issues with crowding.
- The program objectives/outcomes are in a generic form and do not represent the program's goals.

**Rationale for Staff Recommendation:**

The two (2) recommendations are made (1) to assist the program to plan for adequate space for the nursing program and (2) to tailor the objectives to their curriculum.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to accept the report of findings of the routine six (6) year survey visit to Trinity Valley Community College at Kaufman, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program, and issue two (2) recommendations (see draft letter in Attachment #2).

Recommendation #1:

The administration at the college is encouraged to include in the strategic plan a provision for more space for the vocational nursing program to alleviate the crowded conditions.

Recommendation #2:

The faculty are encouraged to revise the program objectives/ outcomes so that they are more personalized to the program and reflect the curriculum.

**Summary of Survey Visit  
Trinity Valley Community College at Kaufman, Texas  
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

**Purpose of Survey Visit:** routine six (6) year survey visit.

**Date of Visit:** July 31, 2012

**Board Staff Conducting Visit:** Gayle Varnell, PhD, APRN, Contracted Program Evaluator

**Board Representative met with:**

- Helen Reid, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE Provost, Health Occupations /Director, VN Nursing Program
- Jason Smith, BSN, Coordinator VN Program
- Dr. Glendon S. Forgey, President TVCC (met on July 31,2012 at Athen's campus)
- Dr. Jerry King, Vice President of Instruction TVCC (met on July 31,2012 at Athen's campus)
- Alice Kelly, Secretary
- Glada Norris, Technology Assistant & Librarian
- Kathy Fowler, Administrative Assistant to Provost Reid
- Ruth Iverson, Skills Lab Coordinator
- Seventeen (17) Level II Vocational Nursing Students

**Board Representative reviewed:**

- Curriculum documents and all syllabi.
- Student Handbook, Faculty Handbook, and Clinical Contracts.
- minutes of faculty meetings.
- tests and clinical evaluation tools.

Board Representative toured the facilities housing the nursing program.

Board Representative observed classroom teaching.

**Summary of Findings:**

Helen Reid, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE was appointed director of the Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program at Trinity Valley Community College at Kaufman, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program in 1983. Dr. Reid is a certified nurse educator.

The administration expressed strong support for the VN program. The Trinity Valley Community College VN program has two sites, one in Kaufman that admits 20-24 students in the spring and a second one in Palestine that admits 40-41 students in the fall of each year.

The Provost reported that the majority of graduates remain in the community and are able to find employment in local hospitals and clinical agencies.

Program of Study:

- The VN program is a 12-month 59-credit hour program of study, based on sequential learning.
- There are a total of 1664 contact hours in the program of study: 720 didactic hours; 304 skills lab hours; and, 640 patient care clinical hours.
- The organization of the curriculum is based upon simple to complex, with the first semester laying the foundation for the program. Skills are front loaded in the first semester.
- The program has implemented the Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) into the curriculum for fall 2012 semester. A matrix will be maintained and reviewed for updating as needed.
- The curriculum includes IV therapy.
- Students expressed that the syllabi and instruction are effective.

#### Faculty:

- The VN instruction is carried out by an experienced RN faculty.
- One (1) full-time (including the coordinator) and one (1) part-time faculty teach in the program.
- Faculty are actively engaged in curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Faculty reported that morale is high and they receive strong support from the Provost/Program Director.

#### Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- The VN program is located on the Kaufman campus which is approximately forty miles (40) from the main campus in Athens and eighty-three (83) miles from the Palestine VN campus.
- The VN program is housed in the same building as other Health Occupations programs on the TVCC Palestine campus: ADN, LVN-to ADN Transition, Paramedic-to-ADN Transition, Surgical Technology, EMS, and Patient Care Technology programs.
- A full array of student services is offered on the Kaufman campus.
- The building housing the VN program is adequately equipped, and offers a positive learning environment. All programs work collaboratively to ensure adequate scheduling of classrooms and labs as space is limited with the numbers of enrolled students.
- There are an adequate number of computers for the faculty and staff.
- The Provost/Director has a large private office.
- Full-time faculty share an office.
- The facilities include restrooms as well as faculty and student lounges and break areas.
- The VN program classrooms and study space are adequate.
- The eight bed nursing skills laboratory is shared with the ADN Program. There is one (1) simulation mannequin and it is located in another building across the street as there is no room for the lab at the Health Occupations building.

#### Students:

- There are seventeen (17) students currently enrolled in the VN program.
- Students interviewed stated that they enrolled in the TVCC-VN program because of location, tuition, and the reputation of the program.
- Students unanimously agreed that they felt that the program of study has prepared them well for clinical practice.
- Students discussed ATI testing and the benefits they felt it provided.
- Students cited clinical experiences along with the VN program coordinator and faculty as being the highlights of the program.
- The majority of students reported they plan to seek further education to become registered nurses in the future.

#### Clinical Learning Experiences:

- The program has active clinical contracts with a number of affiliating agencies which provide a variety of appropriate clinical experiences for the curriculum.
- All clinical learning experiences occur in faculty-supervised, direct-patient care, hands-on clinical settings.
- The clinical experiences are scheduled to match related didactic in the classroom.
- The clinical evaluation tools are individually based upon the course content and measure progression of student behaviors across the curriculum.
- All clinical learning experiences occur in faculty supervised, direct-patient care, hands-on, clinical settings. The program utilizes simulation to prepare students for clinical practice and for remediation purposes.

DRAFT LETTER

October 22, 2012

Helen Reid, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE  
Provost/Director  
Trinity Valley Community College at Kaufman  
Vocational Nursing Education Program  
800 Hwy 243 West  
Kaufman, Texas 75142

Dear Dr. Reid:

At the October 17-18, 2012 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered the report of the routine six year survey visit to the Trinity Valley Community College in Kaufman, Texas Vocational Nursing Education Program. The Board members wish to thank the Director and the Campus Administration for the hospitality and collaborative spirit during the visit. It was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the survey visit report, congratulate the program on its performance, and issue the following recommendations:

Recommendation #1:

The administration at the college is encouraged to include in the strategic plan a provision for more space for the vocational nursing program to alleviate the crowded conditions.

Recommendation #2:

The faculty are encouraged to revise the program objectives/ outcomes so that they are more personalized to the program and reflect the curriculum.

Recommendations are suggestions based upon program assessment indirectly related to the rules to which a program must respond but in a method of their choosing. The director shall respond to these recommendations by January 1, 2013.

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 463-4631 or [sandi.emerson@bon.texas.gov](mailto:sandi.emerson@bon.texas.gov).

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN  
President

Sandi Emerson MSN, RN  
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Texas Workforce Commission  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
President of Trinity Valley Community College