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Dear colleagues—

President Delgado and I are pleased to announce the recommendation of accreditation for the Department of Nursing programs in the Master of Science in Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Doctor of Nursing Practitioner (DNP), and the post-graduate APRN certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) Board of Commission approved the accreditation of each of these programs through December 31, 2027, with the next on-site evaluation scheduled for Spring 2027.

I want to commend the faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Nursing for their tremendous contributions towards this significant and impressive accomplishment! In particular, I would like to acknowledge the collective and collaborative leadership of the following individuals who led this process during these challenging times: Dr. Catherine Alicia Georges, former chair department of nursing, Dr. Eleanor Campbell, current chair and graduate program director of the FNP and DNP programs, Dr. Judith Dyer Academic and Assessment Manager, Ms. Fatima Contreras Assistant to the chair, Marcia Brown, Chief College Lab Technician, Stephen Castellano, Online Learning Technical Specialist, Jose Torres, IT Tech Specialist/Apple administrator. Additionally, and special appreciation to all FNP and DNP faculty, Dr. Sandra Maldonado, Dr. Cassandra Dobson, Dr. Sheila Hankin, Dr. Barbara Baldwin, Dr. Carole Baraldi, and retired faculty, Dr. Ivreen Robinson. I am also immensely grateful to Dean Elgloria Harrison for her leadership in coordinating this process, along with technical support provided by the Office of Academic Programs and Institutional Effectiveness led by Dr. Victor Brown, who is also the Accreditation Liaison Officer for the College, the Office of General Counsel, and the Vice President for Administration and Finance. This, indeed, was a collective effort!

As everyone probably knows, accreditation is the primary means for assuring and improving quality in U.S. higher education. It is a rigorous, voluntary, and peer-review process designed to ensure the quality of academic programs, the meaning and integrity of degrees, resource alignment, transparency in data collection and reporting, and a commitment to the public good, among others. It is a process that involves three phases: 1) a self-study, informed by the mission of the institution and the standards of the accrediting agency, 2) the peer review process, which involves an external review of the self-study and the campus visit (in this case a virtual visit because of the pandemic), and 3) the final phase, which involves judgment by the accrediting agency about whether standards were met and if accredited status should be awarded or be renewed. Our Department of Nursing successfully met CCNE standards, with the next accreditation visit scheduled to occur in five years. What a terrific way to highlight the fall 2022 semester for nursing and overjoyed that the FNP Class of 2022 will graduate and have their degrees conferred in September 2022 from a CCNE-accredited program with eligibilities to take their national certification examination!

We are very grateful to the four-member visiting team led by Dr. Kenneth Lowrance from Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX, for its affirmation of the quality of our work and of our role as a strong anchor institution serving the Bronx. Other members of the team included Dr. Amy Daly, Purdue University Global, West Lafayette, IN, Dr. Elisabeth Shelton, West Virginia University Morgantown, WV, and Dr. Julie Raam, The Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

The team visited the College virtually from Monday, February 7 to Wednesday, February 9, 2022, and met with the School of Health Sciences, Human Services, and Nursing leadership, faculty, staff, students, and alumni in the Department of Nursing, as well as with me, and President Delgado. Please join me in congratulating the Department of Nursing and the School of Health Sciences, Human Services, and Nursing, for this impressive accomplishment!

-P

Peter Nwosu

Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs & Student Success