MOUNT CARMEL
College of Nursing

February 20, 2012

Postsecondary Approval and Registration Administrator
603 E. 12th Street, 5th floor
Des Moines, IA 50319

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter and submitting *Application for Approval and Registration of Postsecondary School, Iowa Code Chapter 261B* under the advisement of J. Carolyn Small, Postsecondary Registration Administrator. Mount Carmel College of Nursing (MCCN), located in Columbus, Ohio, is a non-profit, private, Roman Catholic institution of higher education. We are offering a fully Online RN-BSN Completion Program to Registered Nurses in your state who are graduates of a pre-licensure diploma program or an Associate Degree in Nursing program.

Mount Carmel College of Nursing has no physical presence in Iowa and we currently do not employ any Iowans. Our parent company, Trinity Health, has subsidiary hospitals in Iowa and is sharing information about several BSN completion programs, including ours, with their employees. Due to this, it was the determination of Carolyn Small that we should complete the *Application for Approval and Registration of Postsecondary School, Iowa Code Chapter 261B,* which is enclosed.

Additionally, we have had email exchange with Kathy Weinberg, Associate Director at the Iowa Board of Nursing (Kathy.Weinberg@iowa.gov). After reading information about our program, she replied that since the post-licensure nursing students will not have clinical experiences in Iowa as part of our program, the criteria for out-of-state nursing programs is not a concern and no additional information is required by the Iowa Board of Nursing at this time.

Mount Carmel College of Nursing has had an onsite RN-BSN Completion Program for over a decade. The Institute of Medicine report from October 2010, The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health[i] underscored the value of such programs calling for an 80% Baccalaureate prepared Registered Nurse workforce by 2020 to provide adequate healthcare to the citizens of our nation. The current level of Baccalaureate prepared RNs in the United States is 40%. Thus, it is not at all anticipated that the need for this program will drop. We remain committed to advancing the educational preparation of nurses with diplomas or Associate degrees to Baccalaureate level. However, should such a situation occur MCCN would assist all

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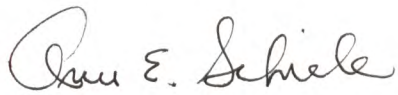
students remaining in the program to find alternate institutions to complete their Baccalaureate degree in Nursing.

We are committed to providing the same high quality education in an online format as we have provided face-to-face in Columbus, Ohio since 1903. Our program is based on evidence from nursing education and higher education. It is benchmarked against national guidelines from the Higher Learning Commission[ii] and *Quality Matters standards*[iii]. We look forward to working with nurses from Iowa as they complete their Baccalaureate degree in Nursing.

For further questions please contact the Assistant Dean Online Learning, Tara Spalla, at: tspalla@mccn.edu or 614-234-5950.

Sincerely,



Ann E. Schiele, PhD, RN
President/Dean
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[i] Robert Wood Johnson and Institute of Medicine collaboration whose aim it was to evaluate and develop action strategies to transform the future of nursing.

[ii] *Best Practices for Electronically Offered Degree and Certificate Programs*, by the Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications and adopted by the Higher Learning Commission of North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

[iii] *Quality Matters Standards* are the result of a FIPSE grant awarded to the University of Maryland studying quality indicators of online learning.