

February 15, 2011

TO: BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Valencia Community College

FROM: SANFORD C. SHUGART
President

RE: LETTER OF INTENT - BACHELOR OF SCIENCE in CARDIOPULMONARY SCIENCES

On December 14, 2010, the Board of Trustees of Valencia Community College discussed the development of a Bachelor of Science in Cardiopulmonary Sciences to satisfy the unmet workforce demand identified by industry partners and heightened by the discontinuation of the cardiopulmonary sciences baccalaureate degree program at the University of Central Florida. The degree will be developed with support from industry partners with the intention of offering the degree in the fall term of 2012.

The proposed Letter of Intent is Valencia's notification of intent, with support from the Central Florida Higher Education Consortium partners, to develop and offer the Bachelor of Science in Cardiopulmonary Sciences to meet local workforce needs in Orange and Osceola Counties. Valencia believes strongly that its collaborative efforts, as they have in the past, will be the most efficient and effective response to the community's needs and will be designed to meet current and future projected workforce goals.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The President recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the Letter of Intent to develop and offer the Bachelor of Science in Cardiopulmonary Sciences as proposed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sanford C. Shugart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Sanford C. Shugart
President

February 15, 2011

Dr. Willis Holcombe, Chancellor
Division of Florida College
325 W. Gaines Street
1314 Turlington Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Dear Dr. Holcombe:

Thank you for your awareness of and support for our Central Florida Higher Education Consortium comprising Brevard Community College, Lake-Sumter Community College, Seminole State College, Valencia Community College, and the University of Central Florida (UCF). We have affiliated since 2005 to work collaboratively to assure access to higher education in central Florida, including access to the bachelor's degree, and to leverage our state and local resources for the benefit of our community. This regional consortium is also known as **DirectConnect to UCF**, and it is significantly enhancing baccalaureate attainment levels among Central Floridians.

In July 2009, the University of Central Florida's Board of Trustees made the difficult decision to eliminate baccalaureate programs in Cardiopulmonary Sciences, Radiologic Sciences, Engineering Technology, and Management Information Systems. These particular degree programs have traditionally functioned as bachelor's degree completion programs in occupational areas largely populated by A.S. transfer students from community colleges. Consistent with our regional collaboration, all of the colleges in the Consortium were notified by the University of Central Florida in advance of this action so that we could consider its impact on our students, communities and region. Since that time, we have met together, determined the unmet needs the discontinuation of these degree programs would leave in our communities, and implemented a coordinated baccalaureate degree development plan to best meet these needs together. Cardiopulmonary Sciences is the only one of these discontinued workforce program areas yet to be formally addressed by the Consortium colleges.

On December 14, 2010, the Board of Trustees of Valencia Community College discussed the development of a B.S. Cardiopulmonary Sciences to satisfy the unmet workforce demand identified by industry partners and heightened by the discontinuation of the cardiopulmonary sciences baccalaureate degree program at the University of Central Florida. The degree will be developed with support from industry partners with the intention of offering the degree in the fall term of 2012. A brief narrative of the curricular scope and documentation of workforce demand convey the importance of offering this degree.

B.S. in Cardiopulmonary Sciences

- The Cardiopulmonary Sciences curriculum will offer students the opportunity to specialize in areas of advanced practice for in-patient/outpatient management, cardiopulmonary diagnostics, and polysomnography. Students completing the program will become integral members of health care teams and will be dedicated to providing high quality patient care. Graduates will be prepared to function as clinically competent practitioners and, with experience, advance to leadership positions in clinical practice and/or education. The study of Cardiopulmonary Science allows advanced practitioners to perform in specialized areas to aid physicians in the diagnostics of patients with acute and chronic cardiopulmonary illness. Advanced practitioner may practice in areas which include pulmonary function testing, metabolic studies, bronchoscopy, cardiac stress testing, pulmonary rehabilitation, cardiovascular echo, electrophysiology, polysomnography and patient care management. Employment opportunities are available in hospitals, physician offices, sleep labs, pulmonary functions labs, home care companies, extended care facilities, durable medical equipment companies and case management. Career advancement opportunities include positions in advanced practice modalities within cardiopulmonary science, education, and quality management. The Cardiopulmonary Sciences Program will be accredited by SACS. The polysomnography track is also accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care. Graduates may be eligible to apply for an advanced practice credential within the discipline and/or area of specialization.
- Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI) estimates that the number of jobs correlated to the B.S. Cardiopulmonary Sciences and available in Central Florida will grow from 40 in 2010 to 393 in 2018. Cardiopulmonary related jobs have an average hourly wage of \$21.85/hour. The B.S. Cardiopulmonary Sciences is offered at only one other public institution in Florida, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), which is located more than 400 miles from Central Florida and renders the students of Orange and Osceola Counties without a public higher education option for completing the degree. The lack of accessibility to the B.S. Cardiopulmonary Sciences for students in Valencia's service area will also leave the community without an adequate number of qualified workers to fill the growing number of jobs in this important industry.

Please accept this letter as Valencia's notification of intent, with support from the Consortium partners, to develop and offer the B.S. Cardiopulmonary Sciences to meet local workforce needs in Orange and Osceola Counties. We believe strongly that our collaborative efforts, as they have in the past, will be the most efficient and effective response to our community's needs and will be designed to meet current and future projected workforce goals.

Sincerely,

Sanford C. Shugart
President
Valencia Community College

Raymer Maguire, III
Chairman
District Board of Trustees