

January 15, 2014

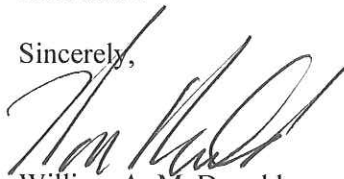
Dear New Jersey Health Initiatives:

On behalf of the administration of St. Joseph's Healthcare System, I wish to express my strong support of the joint application with Caldwell College to the New Jersey Health Initiatives: New Path to Professional Nursing grant program. We are delighted to announce this partnership between leaders in health care and academia in northern New Jersey. Working together we can serve the aspiring baccalaureate nursing students and strengthen their academic success and progression in Caldwell College's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. The grant program will enhance and advance baccalaureate learning for a select cohort of St. Joseph unlicensed, paraprofessional employees who would commonly lack the means and resources to enroll in a private institution of higher learning. Through targeted academic, financial, social support and interventions, the cohort can overcome obstacles and achieve early academic success.

The St. Joseph's Healthcare System is sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, a ministry of healing in the Catholic Church. The grant program will advance the mission to render quality healthcare in northern New Jersey and serve the poor and disadvantaged. We are the largest employer in Passaic County, about 5,000 employees, the highest provider of charity care in the state of New Jersey, and the health care provider of choice for the residents of the region. Thus it is fitting to partner with Caldwell College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, to advance the education of the working students, meet their academic needs and enhance a culturally diverse nursing workforce.

In support of this initiative we will recruit the nursing student candidates and champion the mentoring program to enable our employees to meet academic standards and progress in the liberal arts and science courses during the first two years of the nursing major. We applaud the grant objective to increase academic opportunity and retention of educationally and economically disadvantaged students and support these goals to increase the number of BSN-prepared nurses who will serve the community and nation.

Sincerely,



William A. McDonald  
President and Chief Executive Officer