

# DAKOTA NURSING PROGRAM

Bismarck State College • Dakota College at Bottineau • Lake Region State College • Williston State College

January 19, 2021

Brad Gibbens  
Director ND AHEC  
Center for Rural Health UND SMHS  
1301 N. Columbia Road, STOP 9037  
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

Katelyn Brinkman  
Eastern AHEC Director  
Mayville State University  
330 3<sup>rd</sup> St NE  
Mayville, ND 58257

Denise Andress  
Western AHEC Director  
PO Box 615  
109 S Main Street  
Hettinger, ND 58639

Dear Mr. Gibbens, Ms. Brinkman, and Ms. Andress:

On behalf of the Dakota Nursing Program, I am writing this letter to support the North Dakota Area Health Education Center (ND AHEC) Program and the Eastern ND and Western ND AHEC Centers. The ND AHEC focuses on providing support to the pipeline of health care workforce training programs to address the workforce shortages of healthcare providers.

The North Dakota AHEC has established a strong program with two regional centers located in rural communities in the eastern and western parts of the state. Although located regionally, the centers work in close partnership with each other, the program office and a variety of partner organizations around the state to leverage financial and human resources to most effectively address the health care workforce needs.

The Dakota Nursing Program is a consortium of four community colleges (Bismarck State College, Dakota College at Bottineau, Lake Region State College and Williston State College), we educate practical nursing and associate degree registered nurses. AHEC provides financial support for our rural nursing students as they travel to clinical locations. They assist us in recruiting students to our programs. I believe the AHEC is a key player in the development of the health care workforce in rural and underserved areas.

The Dakota Nursing Program values our partnership with the ND AHEC. I believe this is a worthy program and helps in meeting the needs of future health care students, rural communities, and quality health care for North Dakota citizens.

Sincerely,



Julie Traynor, MS, RN, CNE  
Consortium Director  
Dakota Nursing Program  
1801 College Drive North  
Devils Lake, ND 58301

