

December 8, 2014

RE: Parkland College Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Applied Baccalaureate Degree

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to support the granting of the bachelor of nursing (BSN) degree at Parkland College. Carle employs over 1,400 nurses and as a Magnet<sup>®</sup> hospital for nursing, baccalaureate or higher level prepared nurses are critical to our success. Magnet<sup>®</sup> supports The Institute of Medicine recommendation that 80% of direct care nurses be prepared at the BSN level or higher by 2020, and Carle is actively pursuing the goal. Another local program offering the BSN would greatly enhance our ability to ensure our patients are receiving the highest quality of care available through highly trained nurses.

Sincerely,



James C. Leonard, M.D.  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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