

April 5, 2017

Jerry Weber, President
College of Lake County
19351 W. Washington Street
Grayslake, IL 60030

President Weber,

As Vice President of Operations and Chief Nurse Executive at Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital, I am writing to express my full support of the College of Lake County's initiative to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in the community college setting. College of Lake County has been a strong academic partner for many years educating strong clinical nurses to provide high quality nursing care to our patients and our community.

In 2010, the Institute of Medicine issued a recommendation in *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* report that in order to meet the demands that are emerging because of health reform, new technologies, and an aging population, the profession of nursing needs to increase the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80% by 2020. As you are aware, Lake County does not have a college or university that offers a BSN program. If College of Lake County were to pursue offering a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program, this would further support our academic and clinical partnership in providing exceptional healthcare to our community.

We have found higher retention rates of new nurses that are hired at Lake Forest Hospital as new graduate nurses from the College of Lake County as they are committed to promoting the health of our local community. The reduced cost and convenience of a community college BSN program would not only allow for more men and women to pursue a career in nursing in their local community, it would also support our organizational goal of achieving 80% BSN prepared nursing workforce by 2020.

At Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital, we highly value our relationship with the College of Lake County's Nursing Program and feel that the Illinois BSN initiative will not only enhance the quality of nursing education but will better prepare nurses for the future of healthcare delivery. In addition, I would love to see a Registered Nurse serve as the Dean of the College of Nursing to ensure the integrity of the BSN curriculum.

In support,



Denise Majeski, MSN, RN, ACM, NE-BC
VP Operations/Chief Nurse Executive
Northwestern Medicine
Lake Forest Hospital