VIA EMAIL ONLY

June 20, 2022

Christina Nwachukwu, DNP, RN
Director of Nursing
Union County College
232 E 2nd St
Plainfield, NJ 07060

Dear Dr. Nwachukwu:

This letter will serve as formal notification of actions taken by the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA) at the June 9-10, 2022 Board of Commissioners’ meeting. After board review of the Union County College nursing licensure pass rates and the April 2022 focused site visit report, there were substantial noncompliance concerns with **Standard I: Quality Indicator I-D:**

**The program achieves expected program outcomes related to graduates performance on licensure and certification examinations.**

As outlined in the NLN CNEA **Accreditation Standards for Nursing Education Programs** (approved February 2016) the program is required to achieve a minimum graduate licensure pass rate of 80 percent among first-time takers, averaged over the most recent three-year calendar time period, for each pre-licensure program (practical/vocational, diploma, associate, and bachelor’s) producing graduates eligible to seek licensure (NLN CNEA, 2016, p. 10).

The Board of Commissioners noted on the 2020 Annual Report submitted by Union County College that the licensure pass rates for 2020 graduates were 43.5%. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing reported a 76.92% for first-time test takers for 1/1/20 through 12/31/20 and 52% for the period of 1/1/21 through 12/31/21. Using the National Council of State Boards of Nursing published reports, the most recent three-year average (2019-2021) for first time test takers from Union County College is 71.64%.

Accordingly, the NLN CNEA Board of Commissioners has changed the accreditation status for Union County College (Plainfield, NJ) Practical Nursing Program to **probationary status** for a period of one year effective immediately.

If the program is not able to resolve the identified deficiencies and demonstrate compliance with the accreditation standards within the allotted time frame, the Board will act to withdraw accreditation from the program.

The Board may act to grant a good cause extension to the probationary period if the program has demonstrated substantial progress in addressing the identified deficiencies and requires only a limited period of time to finish resolving the deficiency. The Board will consider a good
cause extension if the program has provided documented evidence of substantial progress toward resolution of the deficiency, definitive plans to achieve resolution within a specified timeline subject to approval by the Board, and the program demonstrates that student outcomes are not compromised.

The NLN CNEA Board of Commissions is requiring the program to provide quarterly licensure examination reports be submitted to NLN CNEA at cneaaccreditation@nln.org to allow for ongoing monitoring of the licensure examination rates throughout the upcoming year. The program should continue to identify and implement strategies or actions to improve the licensure examination pass rate and provide students with the necessary support and preparation to facilitate success.

In accordance with U.S. Department of Education regulations and in accordance with Section 6-I.A of the NLN CNEA Policy Handbook, the NLN CNEA will make this decision public via the NLN CNEA website and through the dissemination of this notice to relevant stakeholders, including to the U.S. Department of Education, state regulatory agencies of the program, including the state board of nursing and the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

In addition, in accordance U.S. Department of Education requirements, the NLN CNEA requires the program to inform all currently enrolled and prospective students the decision to place the program on probationary status within seven (7) business days of receipt of this letter. **We ask that you provide confirmation to us, no later than July 1, 2022 that such notice has been timely made.**

We thank you and your colleagues for your commitment to quality nursing education. Please contact me if you have any questions or if the NLN CNEA can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Teresa Shellenbarger, PhD, RN, CNE, CNEcl, ANEF
Executive Director, NLN CNEA

CC: Margaret McMenamin, EdD, President, Union County College
    Joan Darden, PhD, RN, ANEF, Chair, Board of Commissioners, NLN CNEA
    Herman Bounds, Director Accreditation Group, US Department of Education
    Brian Bridges, PhD, Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, New Jersey
    Donette Walker, DNP, RN, Acting Executive Director, New Jersey State Board of Nursing
    Heather Perfetti, President, Middle States Commission on Higher Education