

**STATUS REPORT ON INNOVATIVE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM  
 MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY  
 BACCALAUREATE DEGREE NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Consider the FY 2006 and Second Status Report on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Innovative Grant Program/Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas (BNE) Innovative Professional Education Pilot Program from Midwestern State University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program.

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

Program	Year	Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Pass Rate	Number of First-Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
Midwestern State University BSN Program	2006	Full	92.86%	65/70
	2005	Full	83.33%	35/42
	2004	Full	92.68%	38/41
Vernon College ADN Program	2006	Full	70.00%	63/90
	2005	Full	81.25%	52/64
	2004	Full	83.87%	52/62

- At the April 21-22, 2005 meeting, the Board approved Midwestern State University (MSU) as a pilot program to the Innovative Professional Nursing Education Pilot Program with Vernon College (VC) Associate Degree Nursing Program as a collaborative member. The Board's approval of the pilot program involved a waiver of BNE Rule 215 related to faculty qualifications. For the pilot program, BSN-prepared Lab Mentors are utilized in the regional simulation center (RSC) as "faculty extenders" with supervision provided by the Director of the Simulation Center, who holds a master's degree.
- On September 7, 2005, the FY 2005 Status Report on the Innovative Professional Education Pilot Program from Midwestern State University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program was received in the Board office and subsequently reviewed by board staff and the Education Liaison Committee (ELC).
- At the January 19-20, 2006 Board meeting, the FY 2006 Status Report on the Innovative Professional Education Pilot Program from MSU was accepted and one requirement was issued to be met related to the Project Director addressing all issues identified by the Outside Evaluator as areas of concern. This requirement has been met.
- On October 6, 2006, the FY 2006 and Second Status Report was received in the Board office and subsequently reviewed by board staff (See Attachment One) and the ELC.

**PROS AND CONS:**

Pros:

- The regional simulation center remains fully operational and usage has significantly increased over this reporting period.
- The pilot program appears to be meeting the goals and objectives of the THECB grant appropriately and within the stated time line. Revisions are being made as warranted.
- The areas of concern identified by the Outside Evaluator have been addressed appropriately.
- The 2006 NCLEX-RN® pass rate of first time test takers for MSU is 92.86%.

Cons:

- According to BNE Rule 227.3(b), pilot programs “. . . shall have a defined length, not to exceed two years.” The pilot program’s BNE approval will end April 30, 2007, but the THECB grant period does not end until August 31, 2007.
- Neither the first nor second status reports submitted to THECB and the BNE included a report on the utilization of BSN-prepared Lab Mentors as “faculty extenders” in the RSC or evaluation of the terminal successes or failures of students participating in the RSC scenarios as part of their nursing education.
- The 2006 NCLEX-RN® pass rate of first time test takers for VC is 70.00% and the program is required to write a self-study report that evaluates factors which contributed to the graduates’ performance on the NCLEX-RN® examination and a description of the corrective measures to be implemented. This self-study report will be presented to the Board at the April 19-20, 2007 meeting.

**EDUCATION LIAISON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

After review of the FY 2006 and Second Status Report and Board staff’s review, a majority of the ELC members voted to recommend the following:

1. Accept the FY 2006 and Second Status Report on the Innovative Professional Education Pilot Program from Midwestern State University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program;
2. Extend the BNE approval for the BNE Innovative Professional Nursing Education Pilot Program from Midwestern State University through April 30, 2008; and
3. Issue a requirement to be met for the program to submit a written status report to the BNE office by May 15, 2008 addressing:
  - Utilization of BSN-prepared Lab Mentors as “faculty extenders” in the RSC to include a description of the model being utilized, identified problems, and successes.
  - Evaluation of the terminal successes or failures of students participating in the RSC scenarios as part of their nursing education to include grade point averages in nursing courses required for graduation, outcomes on the NCLEX-RN® examination and prospective or actual employment in nursing after graduation.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Move to accept the FY 2006 and Second Status Report on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Innovative Grant Program/Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas (BNE) Innovative Professional Education Pilot Program from Midwestern State University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program, extend the BNE approval for the BNE Innovative Professional Nursing Education Pilot Program from Midwestern State University through April 30, 2008 and issue the requirement to be met, as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment Two).

## **Board Staff Review**

**Item:** FY 2006 and Second Status Report from Midwestern State University on the THECB Nursing Innovation Grant Program/BNE Innovative Professional Nursing Education Pilot Program

**Reviewers:** Robbin Wilson, MSN, RN and Janice Hooper, PhD, RN

**Date of Review:** December 28, 2006

### **Pilot Program Outcomes:**

#### Goals

- Goal #1: Increase the number of students admitted to clinical courses at Midwestern State University (MSU) and Vernon College (VC) by 56.

Comment - Admission numbers have increased. In Fall 2005, MSU admitted 142 nursing students, representing an increase of 36 and in Fall 2006, MSU admitted 147 nursing students, representing an increase of five. In Fall 2005, VC admitted 57 nursing students, representing an increase of eight and in Fall 2006, VC admitted 65 nursing students, representing another increase of eight. The total increase in nursing students already exceeds the goal by one (See page 2 of the status report).

- Goal #2: Pilot the implementation of a collaborative regional simulation center (RSC).

Comment - The RSC remains fully operational. Use of the RSC has increased significantly (see pages 2-3 of the status report).

- Goal #3: Evaluate the effectiveness of such a center upon graduates' perceived clinical competence.

Comment - Quantitative data is being collected throughout the grant period and ongoing analysis of the data is being conducted using various models. The preliminary analysis was included in the status report (see pages 3-7 of the status report). The statistical analysis using the models, particularly Path Models B, has resulted in some discrepancies (see page 7 of the status report). Student Focus Groups in 2006 (see pages 7-8) outlined some themes regarding the students' perceived clinical competence.

- Goal #4: Determine the cost-effectiveness of such a center.

Comments - An approach for determining the cost-effectiveness of the RSC from the perspective of the university was developed and an analysis was completed (see pages 8-10 of the status report). The results suggest several considerations in the implementation of a patient simulation center (see page 10 of the status report). The program will be evaluating the cost-effectiveness of the RSC from the perspective of the hospital and the resulting assessment data will be included in the next and final status report.

**Objectives:**

- Objective A: to use Lateral SimMan TM patient simulator equipment in a regional simulation center;

Comments - Use of the Lateral SimMan TM has increased. The number of clinical scenarios has increased and the complexity of clinical scenarios has been expanded (see page 11 of the status report).

- Objective B: to develop a “competency transcript” to document validation of student competence;

Comments - Pilot testing on the Competency Transcript is to begin (see pages 12-13 of the status report). Issues arose this reporting period regarding whether or not the Competency Transcript can be ethically and legally shared with employers after students have graduated. This issue should be addressed through legal counsel during the final year of the grant.

- Objective C: to decrease faculty workload required for skill and competency validation;
- Objective D: to increase faculty time available for classroom and clinical teaching;

Comments - Participation in simulation clinical experiences as resulted in a transfer of student clinical hours and this transfer of clinical hours has decreased the workload assigned to each faculty in clinical courses (see pages 13-14 in the status report).

- Objective E: to increase clinical opportunities for skill acquisition in a predictable, risk-free environment.

Comments - A template for development of clinical has been implemented in order to make the scenarios consistent and more complete, regardless of the developer (see pages 14-15 in the status report).

**Other Factors:**

1. Additional information regarding evaluation of the project, results as obtained so far and a comparison of those results to the original goals, objectives and projected outcomes, and some “success stories” have been included in the body of status report and the appendixes.
2. The dates in the revised Time Line (see pages 20-21 in the status report) are correct.
3. All issues identified by the Outside Evaluator as areas of concern in the last status report have been appropriately addressed.

**Summary:**

It appears that the pilot program remains on target. Stated goals and objectives are being addressed appropriately. Revisions are being made as warranted.

## DRAFT LETTER

January 22, 2007

Susan Sportsman, PhD, RN  
Dean, College of Health and Human Services  
3410 Taft Boulevard  
Wichita Falls, Texas 76308

Dear Dr. Sportsman:

At the January 18-19, 2007 meeting, members of the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas discussed the FY 2006 and Second Status Report on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Innovative Grant Program/Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas (BNE) Innovative Professional Education Pilot Program from Midwestern State University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program. The members of the Board wish to thank you for being available to answer questions. Based upon the discussion, it was the decision of the Board to accept the status report, extend the Innovative Professional Pilot Program from Midwestern State University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program until April 30, 2008, and issue the following requirement to be met.

### **REQUIREMENT**

Rule 227.5(a) related to Monitoring and Evaluating Innovative Applications for Professional Nursing Education Program states that "All nursing education pilot programs shall be subject to monitoring and evaluation by the Board to ensure compliance with the criteria of this rule and obtain evidence that research goals are being pursued." **Therefore**, the Project Director shall submit a written status report to the BNE office by May 15, 2008 addressing:

- Utilization of BSN-prepared Lab Mentors as "faculty extenders" in the RSC to include a description of the model being utilized, identified problems, and successes.
- Evaluation of the terminal successes or failures of students participating in the RSC scenarios as part of their nursing education to include grade point averages in nursing courses required for graduation, outcomes on the NCLEX-RN® examination and prospective or actual employment in nursing after graduation.

Requirements are mandatory and are based on assessment directly related to the rule. A requirement shall be addressed in the manner prescribed. Please report on the address of the requirement to be met by May 15, 2008 as indicated above. If you have any questions, or if we may be of assistance to you in the future, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6815.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP  
President

Robbin Wilson, MSN, RN  
Lead Nursing Consultant for Education

cc: THECB