

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status  
 From Conditional Approval to Full Approval  
 Bell Tech Career Institute in Houston, Texas  
 Vocational Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider a proposed change in the program approval status for Bell Tech Career Institute (BTCI) Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Houston, Texas from Conditional Approval to Full Approval based upon review of the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2016, and compliance with Rule 214.

**Historical Perspective:**

- BTCI VN program was approved October 27, 2011.
- BTCI is licensed by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).
- Tonye Cox-Miller, DNP, MSN, MBA, RN, has served as the Program Director of the VN Program since February 2016 and meets all qualifications set forth by Board Rule 214.6 Administration and Organization.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past five (5) years are provided in the following table:

<b>NCLEX Examination Year</b>	<b>BON Approval Status</b>	<b>NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate</b>	<b>Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)</b>
2016	Conditional (Board Meeting April 2016)	100%	13/13
2015	Initial with Warning (Board Meeting April 2015)	20.83%	5/24
2014	Initial (Self Study Report)	58.82%	10/17
2013	Initial	37.93%	11/29
2012	New Program	No candidates	

- Subsequent to the program being placed on Conditional Approval at the April 2016 Board meeting, the program was prohibited from enrolling new students.
- The BTCI Program Director provided resources to the VN Program to provide guidance to the faculty members in identifying measures designed to improve the curriculum and student success.
- Major areas needing corrective actions with accompanying time frames for implementation were identified in the SSR. Some of the corrective measures included: 1) standardized computer testing; 2) faculty orientation and training; 3) consistent application of admission standards; 4) rigor in admission standards; 5) efficient evaluative processes

for students and faculty; 6) regularly scheduled faculty meetings; and 7) an operationalized total program evaluation tool.

**Rationale for Staff Recommendations:**

The program has demonstrated a pass rate for first-time candidates of at least 80% on the 2016 NCLEX-PN® examination and is currently in full compliance with Rule 214. Since the program has met rule requirements, the change of approval status will allow the admission of new students.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to change the approval status for Bell Tech Career Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas from Conditional Approval to Full Approval and issue the conditions and requirements in the attached Board Order (Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

January 19, 2017

Tonye Cox-Miller, DNP, MSN, MBA, RN, Director  
Vocational Nursing Education Program  
Bell Tech Career Institute  
14602 Presidio Square Boulevard  
Houston, TX 77083

Dear Dr. Cox-Miller:

At the January 19-20, 2017 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) discussed the approval status of Bell Tech Career Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2016, and compliance with Board Rule 214.

Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Bell Tech Career Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program from Conditional Approval to Full Approval.

If you have any questions or if Board staff may be of any assistance, please contact Board Staff at [susan.lee@bon.texas.gov](mailto:susan.lee@bon.texas.gov) or 512-463-4631.

Sincerely,

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN  
Executive Director

copy: President, Bell Tech Career Institute  
Texas Workforce Commission

**BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**

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**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

In the Matter of  
Bell Tech Career Institute  
Vocational Nursing Education Program  
In Houston, Texas

**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on January 19, 2017, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Bell Tech Career Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 214, based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2016, and compliance with Rule 214.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as the presentation by representatives from Bell Tech Career Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of the Bell Tech Career Institute Vocational Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas from CONDITIONAL APPROVAL to FULL APPROVAL and hereby imposes the following conditions and requirements:

1. The program shall not enroll more than one (1) cohort of thirty (30) students until the program demonstrates a pass rate for first-time candidates of at least 80% on the 2017 NCLEX-PN® examination. The NCLEX-PN® examination year is January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.
2. The program must demonstrate full compliance with Rule 214.

Entered this 19th day of January, 2017

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Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN  
Executive Director  
On Behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing