Report of Application of a New Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in a Public Junior College  
Lone Star College in The Woodlands, Texas

Background:

- Senate Bill 2118 passed by the 85(R) Texas Legislative Session allowed the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to authorize certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs, including nursing. Public junior colleges that meet the requirements in SB 2118 shall seek approval from THECB and from the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) [Sec. 130.305(b)(2)].

- Staff from the BON and THECB have developed a collaborative process to handle applications from community colleges interested in establishing a baccalaureate degree nursing (BSN) education program.

- The first application/proposal received by both agencies was submitted by Austin Community College in Austin, Texas, was approved, and has begun operation. Other public community colleges that have been approved to develop a baccalaureate degree in nursing are: Grayson College in Denison, Texas; Collin College in McKinney, Texas; and South Texas College in McAllen, Texas.

Proposal from Lone Star College in The Woodlands, Texas:

- A proposal to establish a BSN program at Lone Star College in The Woodlands, Texas was received in the Board office on May 10, 2019. It was reviewed by Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, CNE, FAAN, ANEF, and Virginia Ayars, EdD, MS, RN and found to be in compliance with Rule 215.

- The Lone Star College System is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. There are five colleges in the Lone Star College System that house Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Programs and all are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

- Current NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates for the Lone Star Colleges are presented:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College, Location</th>
<th>NCLEX Pass Rate for 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lone Star College – Cyfair in Cypress</td>
<td>93.88% (46/49)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lone Star College – Kingwood in Kingwood</td>
<td>94.96% (113/119)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lone Star College – Montgomery in Conroe</td>
<td>94.74% (54/57)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lone Star College – North Harris in Houston</td>
<td>93.22% (110/118)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lone Star College – Tomball in Tomball</td>
<td>97.50% (39/40)</td>
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• The rationale for the RN-to-BSN program is based upon the growth of healthcare facilities in the Gulf Coast Region and the number of openings for nurses with a BSN. Ninety percent of the ADN students in the Lone Star Colleges have indicated an interest in attending a RN-to-BSN program at Lone Star College.

• Lone Star College plans to enroll 30 students beginning in Fall 2020, increasing by 30 students each year.

• Program requirements for the 120 semester credit hour (SCH) BSN Program includes 60 SCH of courses in the Associate Nursing Degree Program, 28 SCH for core complete, and 32 SCH of Upper Division BSN courses. The program is designed to prepare practicing nurses for leadership, policy development and implementation, interpretation and application of research, and nursing practice with groups, community, and populations at large.

• The Differentiated Essential Competencies for Graduates of Nursing Education Programs (DECs) for the BSN level courses have been integrated into all the upper level courses. A capstone project focuses on a scholarly exchange that demonstrates competency in research of a clinical or theoretical problem in nursing.

• Upper division clinical learning experiences are designed to offer students opportunities in a variety of settings such as: adult day care, long term care, skilled care, acute care, hospice, school nursing, Head Start programs, home health care, public clinics, local health departments, community facilities, prisons, homeless shelters, mental health clinics, group meetings, and simulation laboratories.

• The Total Program Evaluation will follow the ACEN systematic evaluation plan template. Lone Star College plans to file for candidacy for ACEN accreditation of the BSN program in Summer 2019.

• As the Lone Star College RN-to-BSN Program proposal meets the requirements of Board Rule 215, Board Staff recommend approval of the program to THECB.

This report is for information only. No action is required.