

**Report of Application of a New Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program  
in a Public Junior College  
Trinity Valley Community College in Terrell, 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. The bill allows public junior colleges that meet the requirements in SB 2118 to 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.
- Eleven applications/proposals have been received and processed by both agencies:
  - Austin Community College in Austin, Texas;
  - Grayson College in Denison, Texas;
  - Collin College in McKinney, Texas;
  - Laredo College in Laredo, Texas;
  - South Texas College in McAllen, Texas;
  - Lone Star College in The Woodlands, Texas;
  - Weatherford College in Weatherford, Texas;
  - Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas;
  - San Jacinto College in Pasadena, Texas;
  - San Antonio College in San Antonio, Texas; and
  - Galveston College in Galveston, Texas.

**Proposal from Trinity Valley Community College in Terrell, Texas:**

- Trinity Valley Community College (TVCC), formerly Henderson County Junior College, was established in 1946 in Athens, Texas. The college began to expand in 1969 by offering an off-campus instructional program at the Texas Department of Corrections. The Palestine campus in Anderson County was established in 1972, and the Terrell campus in Kaufman County in 1973. In May of 1983, the Kaufman Health Science Center (HSC) was completed. The HSC moved to its current location in Terrell, Texas, in 2019 - 2020.
- A proposal to establish a Registered Nurse (RN) to Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) Education Program at TVCC in Terrell, Texas, was received in the Board office on August 24, 2020. The proposal was reviewed by Gayle Varnell, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC, and Virginia D. Ayars, EdD, MS, RN, CNE, and found to be in compliance with Rule 215.
- TVCC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN); the ADN graduates' NCLEX-

RN® examination pass rates have been between 84.40% and 90.32% for the past three years. Helen Reid, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE, FAADN, will serve as the Director of the RN-to-BSN Program. Dr. Reid joined TVCC faculty in 1983, became the Dean of Health Occupations in 1990, and in 2007 she became the Provost of the Health Science Center. Some of Dr. Reid's many accomplishments include the following:

- Led the Perkins Leadership Grant project with representatives from eight community college and four universities in 2011-2012 to create a concept-based curriculum in a 1+2+1 pathway leading to a 120-semester hour BSN curriculum.
  - Developed the Consortium for Advancing Baccalaureate Nursing Education in Texas (CABNET) with promoted articulation agreements between ADN and BSN programs.
  - Served as primary project director for the Texas Concept-Based Curriculum Nursing Innovation Grant project from the THECB in 2012-2015. The curriculum is currently used in 17 Texas community colleges.
  - Served as primary co-investigator for the Academic Progression in Nursing (APIN) grant for Texas (2012-2015) which was part of the Future of Nursing Campaign for Action funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to work towards the goal of 80% of RNs obtaining a BSN by 2020. The APIN grant built on the ADN concept-based course offerings and developed the RN-to-BSN and MSN concept-based courses.
- The primary goals for TVCC to offer the RN-to-BSN Program are to:
    - address the growing nursing shortage in the East Texas region;
    - support the TVCC mission of transforming lives through affordable and accessible education;
    - assist TVCC alumni in their quest to pursue an advanced degree in nursing;
    - complement the existing ADN program by a continuation of the concept-based curriculum; and
    - provide an affordable pathway to the BSN in a familiar, convenient environment.
  - Four current full-time doctorally prepared faculty members at TVCC will teach in the RN-to-BSN Program. The RN-to-BSN Faculty Policies will be separate from the TVCC Faculty Handbook in order to avoid confusion. They will be accessible on the faculty orientation Canvas Course and the ACEN Canvas Course with the current ADN Faculty policies.
  - The RN-to-BSN Program plans to enroll one cohort of 30 students in fall 2021. Following admission of the initial cohort, the intent is to offer all courses once in 2021-2022 to allow for an evaluation of the entire program before a second cohort is admitted. The second cohort will be admitted in fall 2022. Starting in the spring of 2023, the plan is to admit a cohort of 30 students twice a year. The RN-to-BSN Program is designed to be completed in one year of full-time study.
  - No new facilities are needed for the RN-to-BSN Program, as it will be located in the HSC located in Terrell, Texas. This building was previously the Renaissance Hospital of Terrell that closed in 2013. The renovation included 58,136 square feet. Besides a 4,000 square foot multi-purpose classroom with movable tables and chairs suited to the flipped classroom approach and group work, there are three skills labs that have eight beds each, nurses' station, medication room, classroom seating for 24 students, and video-projector capabilities. There is also a five bed simulation center converted from the hospital's ICU

with high-fidelity mannequins, control room, two debriefing rooms, simulation coordinators' office, nurse's station, medication room, and storage room. There are two testing rooms with 50 computers each and six classrooms for 28 students.

- The 120 semester credit hour (SCH) RN-to-BSN Program includes 30 SCH of upper-division nursing courses. The hybrid program is designed to be completed in sequence in that specific courses based on the prerequisites must be completed prior to advancing to the next semester. The BSN courses include transition to baccalaureate nursing practice, health assessment for the RN, theoretical principles of nursing, legal and ethical considerations in nursing, nursing research and evidence-based practice, leadership, community and public health nursing, and health policy and regulation.
- The RN-to-BSN Program's conceptual framework complements the existing ADN program as it will be a continuation of the concept-based curriculum. The TVCC RN-to-BSN courses were developed using much of the Texas Concept Based Curriculum RN-to-BSN course syllabi prepared through the APIN grant.
- Three courses have skills lab/clinical components that are designed for students to apply and practice theoretical concepts: *Health Assessment Across the RN, Leadership and Management, and Community and Public Health*. Based on the specific learning outcomes, course descriptions, and methods of evaluation, clinical assignments are planned to meet course outcomes/objectives.
- The Total Program Evaluation is based on the ACEN systematic evaluation plan template. TVCC plans to pursue candidacy for ACEN accreditation of the program.
- As the TVCC RN-to-BSN Program proposal meets the requirements of Board Rule 215, Board Staff recommended approval of the program to the THECB.
- THECB is currently reviewing the application to approve the TVCC RN-to-BSN Program.

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