



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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HILDA L. SOLIS
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

April 25, 2022

California Department of Consumer Affairs
Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95833-2945

To Whom It May Concern,

As Supervisor to the First District of Los Angeles County, I write regarding Premiere Career College, which is located in my district in the City of Irwindale. For years, Premiere Career College has provided critical workforce training and graduated licensed vocational nurses who now serve the region. Students in the program also served their rotations at LAC+USC, our County's flagship hospital, which speaks to the quality of the program, the committed students partaking, and the school's focus on equity.

Most of these students come from nearby communities of color and are low income. Of the 87 students in the current class, 40 are Latino, 40 are AAPI, two are Black or African American, and two are American Indian or Alaskan Native. Additionally, 92% of the students utilize Pell Grant funding. From 2005 through 2020, there were 1,243 graduates who are now working in various healthcare settings. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these graduates worked on the front lines caring for the sick and vulnerable members of our communities.

Unfortunately, on February 18, 2022, the State Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians notified Premiere Career College with the following actions to:

1. Deny Premiere College's request to admit a full-time evening class of 30 students to commence on April 18, 2022, with a graduation date of June 8, 2023.
2. Revoke the provisional approval of Premier Career College Vocational Nursing Program, effective immediately.
3. Remove the program from the Board's list of Approved Vocational Nursing Schools effective February 18, 2022.

I recognize the regulatory agency requirements that Premiere Career College must demonstrate to comply. However, Premiere Career College has demonstrated the ability to prepare their students to graduate, as evidenced by the latest National Council of State Boards of Nursing report, which showed Premiere Career College had a 100% passing rate for the last two quarters,

well above the California Quarters and Annual Average. Additionally, this abrupt decision will significantly impact the lives of students currently enrolled in the program.

On behalf of the students and communities served by Premiere Career College, I respectfully request that the State Board:

1. Provide the necessary consideration for Premiere Career College's appeal filed to the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians regarding the above actions.
2. Schedule an onsite visit for members of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians at Premiere Career College to see firsthand the training and opportunities provided.
3. While the program is going through the appeal process, allow the following cohorts to complete the program:
 - a. VN2021-1 = 21 students. Projected Graduation: 9/16/22
 - b. VN2021-2 = 21 students. Projected Graduation: 2/14/23
 - c. VN2021-3 = 13 students. Projected Graduation: 4/23/23

It is critical that Los Angeles County build up its network of healthcare professionals and Premiere Career College trains students to be compassionate nurses who serve our most vulnerable residents. Should you have any questions, please contact Anthony Cespedes, Health Deputy, of my staff at 213-974-4111 or acespedes@bos.lacounty.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



HILDA L. SOLIS

Supervisor, First District

CC: Mayor Larry G. Burrola, City of Irwindale
City Manager Julian Miranda, City of Irwindale