



Sacred Heart UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

John J. Petillo, Ph.D.
President

October 1, 2015

Jennie C. Hunter-Cevera, PhD
Acting Secretary of Higher Education
Maryland Higher Education Commission
6 N. Liberty Street, 10th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dr. Hunter-Cevera:

Thank you for sending the letter of objection initiated by Dr. Gregory, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Coppin State University. I appreciate her concerns but believe online programs offered by Sacred Heart University, College of Nursing (SHU/CON) are neither duplicative nor require undo demands for clinical sites.

The online MSN programs are not APRN programs and do not include a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program. Therefore, there is **no duplication of programs** and thus **does not increase the demand for qualified clinical preceptors and clinical sites** as stated in Dr. Gregory's letter.

The need for BSN prepared nurses is a recommendation of the Institute of Medicine's Report on the Future of Nursing. So rather than being duplicative, the RN-BSN online program offered by SHU/CON is a way to support this recommendation by offering an online program to Maryland nurses that is a format and pedagogy not offered by Coppin State University. Although the program requires a precepted experience in public or community health placement, it is a one-to-one placement with the contracted agency and the identified preceptor.

The online programs in nursing have been accredited by the Connecticut Office of Higher Education and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. We recruit students from a national base. We are eager to offer our programs to the nurses in Maryland but do not believe that we will compromise the nursing programs or experiences for nursing students in your state.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the concerns presented by Dr. Gregory.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John J. Petillo".

John J. Petillo, Ph.D.