



September 27, 2019

Dr. Emily A.A. Dow
Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs
Maryland Higher Education Commission
6 North Liberty Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Dr. Dow,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Health Sciences proposal being brought forth by McDaniel College. The Coppin State University (CSU) Department of Health and Health Education/Health Sciences adds its objections to those presented by our sister University of Maryland System Institutions. Our concerns about the McDaniel College Health Sciences proposal are summarized below:

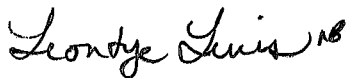
- **The Program is Duplicative in Nature.** The program is duplicative and will cause demonstrative harm to the existing Bachelor of Science degree program in Health Sciences at Coppin State University, as well as similar programs offered by the University System of Maryland. CSU's Bachelor of Sciences degree in Health Sciences is one of the largest at the campus in terms of official enrollment with nearly 158 students majoring in Health Sciences as of the Fall 2019 semester. Overall, CSU students are predominately from the State of Maryland and, as of Spring 2019, 93% are students of color. Students of color seem to be a new population of interest to McDaniel College as evidenced by their recent incoming class which was 47% with a projected rise of 50% by 2023, a significant and notable departure from their previous average trends of approximately 26%. These data clearly suggest that McDaniel College does not strive to meet a need that is already being met by CSU, a Historically Black Institution. Further, McDaniel College did not address this need under B1b in their narrative: Critical and Compelling Regional and Statewide Need as Identified in the State Plan, Societal needs including expanding educational opportunities and choices for minority and educationally disadvantaged students at institutions of higher education or in B1c, the need to strengthen and expand the capacity of historically black institutions to provide high quality and unique educational programs.
- **The Proposed Program is Inconsistent with their Mission.** According to their proposal, McDaniel College's mission is a "diverse student-center community . . . (that) prepares students for successful lives of leadership, service, and social responsibility." In the section addressing its Consistency with the State's Minority Student Achievement Goals, McDaniel College's proposal outlines a list of curricular and co-curricular programming initiatives the institution has implemented to serve a diverse student body. It is notable that the institution provides only a list of

inputs and any data on how those inputs are accessible to students of color (process evaluation) or contribute to their proximal and distal success (outcomes evaluation) are absent. Their increasing trends in enrolling students of color may well be attributed to increasingly diverse demographic trends with the region and country. This raises concerns about McDaniel College's current capacity to adequately meet the needs of an increasingly diverse student body, both in spirit and in letter. Coppin State University, a Historically Black Institution on the other hand, has a long history of successfully serving historically underserved and underrepresented populations. It is further noted that in McDaniel College's narrative under E1, Relevance to High Demand Programs at Historically Black Institutions (HBIs) they chose to discuss their programs' potential impact on the implementation and maintenance of high-demand programs at HBIs by simply stating not applicable (N/A) and under F1, Relevance to the identity of Historically Black (HBIs), they chose to discuss their program's potential impact on the uniqueness and institutional identities and missions of HBIs by again simply stating not applicable (N/A).

- **Violation of the State's Equal Educational Opportunity obligations.** McDaniel College's proposal subtly and, perhaps, misleadingly hints at future designs to create an online Health Sciences program. Scholarly research indicates that online learning may exacerbate educational outcomes between historically underserved and underrepresented student populations and their privileged peers by reducing the former's odds of completion. While providing choices to students is important, it is important also to do so in a manner that is ethical, responsible, and informed by current research, and ensures continued support for success, especially among a population that is vulnerable to social injustices and social inequities in the educational arena. The proposal as presented by McDaniel College does not identify the means by which it proposes to stem such disparities and ensure the success of all students in any future online programs.

Again, thank you for your willingness to review our claim and support the notion that the proposal as presented by McDaniel College is one of unreasonable, and potentially, harmful duplication. CSU awaits your response with anticipation.

Best regards,



Leontye L. Lewis, Ed.D.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

CC: Dr. Mickey L. Burnim, President
Dr. Tracey Murray, Dean, College of Health Professions
Dr. Irving Smith, Chair, Health Education
Dr. Antoinette Coleman, Associate Vice Chancellor, University System of Maryland