Pratt Community College Nursing Program
Accreditation Talking Points

Quality Academic Programs & Services: Pratt Community College is committed to delivering quality academic programs and services to students and stakeholders. The Board of Trustees and administration are driven to restore quality to the PCC Nursing Program.

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN): On Thursday, March 12, 2015, the Associate Degree in Nursing Program at Pratt Community College was informed by site visitors from its national accreditation agency, the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN); it would not recommend continued accreditation of the ADN Program to its board of commissioners. The team cited various reasons related to 1) the number of faculty and staff, 2) curriculum, and 3) outcomes. Their recommendations will be taken to their board for action in June 2015 where a final decision will be made later this summer.

Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN): On the same date, the ADN Program was informed by site visitors from the Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN), that deficiencies in the program were identified. They will complete their report and submit it to the KSBN Board for review and action in June. Further action may be taken at that time which could include the program being placed on “conditional approval”.

Impact of Non-Accredited ADN Nursing Program: Kansas ADN programs with KSBN approval and without national accreditation may continue to deliver instruction in the State of Kansas. For students, given known limitations of participation in non-accredited ADN programs include: 1) a lack of transferability to RN-to-BSN programs, 2) limited employment opportunities by some Kansas healthcare providers, and 3) state licensure limited to practicing only in the State of Kansas.

Currently Enrolled Nursing Students: The ADN program remains accredited by ACEN until their board of commissioners makes a final decision on the program’s accreditation later this summer. Students graduating prior to this final decision will complete their studies under an accredited program. With successful completion of their courses and program prior to early August, current nursing students will not be affected. Each currently enrolled nursing student has been sent an informational letter from the President and received a personal call by staff to brief them on the accreditation announcement and their current status.

May 2015 & August 2015 ADN Nursing Cohorts: The college administration and nursing department have chosen to postpone the nursing online cohort scheduled to start in May, 2015 and it will now begin in August, 2015. Applicants accepted for the May cohort will be given “first right for refusal” for the August cohort. In addition to the August online cohort, the August ADN cohort (ground) will start as previously scheduled.

Enrollment Incentive: As part of PCC’s commitment to student success, the college is offering students interested in enrolling in a PCC ADN program, a Guaranteed Investment of Free Tuition (GIFT) incentive. The GIFT program guarantees refund of the student’s tuition if the student is unsuccessful in passing the NCLEX-RN exam after the student completes the PCC ADN program.

Practical Nursing Program (PN): The PN program is not impacted by the ACEN accreditation announcement. PN cohorts will be offered on the Pratt and Winfield campuses in August. The GIFT program commitment will be offered to these students as well. The PCC PN students NCLEX pass rates from 2009-2013 have been 97%, 100%, 100%, 98% and 86% respectively.

Points-of-Contact/Questions: Kay Watkins, PCC Director of Nursing at (620) 229-5991, kayw@prattcc.edu or Frank Stahl, PCC Coordinator of Special Admission Programs at (620) 450-2114, franks@prattcc.edu or Cindy Lambert, PCC Nursing Advisor at (620) 450-2224, cindyl@prattcc.edu. Kansas State Board of Nursing for available program options. 785-496-2929 or www.ksbn.org.