

LETTER OF SUPPORT - Large Hospital



Affiliate of ProMedica

April 2, 2021

Cynthia Spiers, Ph.D.
President
Rhodes State College
4240 Campus drive
Lima, Ohio 45804

Dear Dr. Spiers:

Lima Memorial Health System (LMHS) is pleased to support Rhodes State College in its pursuit of a Bachelor of Science (BSN) degree program. The BSN program will provide highly trained and skilled nurses for our local community and greatly impact the healthcare of patients we serve within a 10-county radius.

LMHS, like the rest of the nation, has a greater need for BSN graduate nurses than can be met through currently available nursing programs. Today, the overall BSN rate at LMHS is 54% with only a 40% BSN rate for frontline/direct care staff. This falls short of the Institute of Medicine's goal by 2020 of 80%. With 500 nurses employed by LMHS, and 25% over the age of 50 and likely to exit the workforce in the next five to ten years, LMHS will likely need to hire more than a hundred nurses over the next decade. Even if all of them were to hold a BSN degree, that would still leave us with a need for an additional one hundred or more of our existing nursing staff to complete their BSN.

LMHS reimburses tuition for our own nurses who pursue advanced BSN completion. Many of them choose online, out of state programs because they are the most affordable and quick path to a BSN degree.

Rhodes State College's local BSN degree program will allow us to provide advanced training for our nurses while we invest in our own community. LMHS is fully supportive and committed to the implementation of a BSN degree program at Rhodes State College as we work collegially to provide the best healthcare available for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael D. Swick".

Michael D. Swick
President & CEO
Lima Memorial Health System

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Pohl".

Ann Pohl, DNP, RN
Vice President of Patient Care Services & CNO
Lima Memorial Health System

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