



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech

SUBJECT: Regents Permission to Operate in New York State:
Wilkes University

DATE: February 3, 2014

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Consent Agenda

Should the Regents approve the proposed permission to operate in New York State for Wilkes University?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full board at its February 2014 meeting where it will be voted on and action taken.

Procedural History

Board of Regents permission to operate in New York State is required by Section 224 of the Education Law which prohibits out-of-state colleges and universities from transacting business in New York without Regents permission.

Background Information

Wilkes University seeks Regents permission to operate in New York State in order to place students from its Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner programs leading to the Master of Science degree in health agencies in New York for supervised clinical experiences. Section 6908 of the Education Law restricts the

practice of nursing to licensed persons or students enrolled in educational programs that the State Education Department has registered. The University's Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Graduates of the program are eligible for certification as Nurse Practitioners through the American Nurses Credentialing Center or through the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. The programs meet the standards for registration as set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Regents approve the proposed permission to operate, effective February 3, 2014, which authorizes Wilkes University to use two clinical agencies in New York for clinical education of two students enrolled in its Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program leading to the M.S. degree.

Timetable for Implementation

This approval will be effective until March 31, 2019.

INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF RECOMMENDATION

The request for permission to operate in New York State is being made for the program titled Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner.

Wilkes University requests permission to place up to two Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner students per academic year at clinical agencies located in the Mid-Hudson area. Contractual affiliations exist between Advanced Kidney Care of Hudson Valley and the Mid-Hudson Medical Group, PC. The program leading to the M.S. degree requires completion of 40 credit hours including 500 clinical contact hours. The didactic co-requisite to the clinical courses is taught online and students are expected to complete a weekend clinical with Wilkes University faculty in Pennsylvania.

Individuals available to serve as preceptors for the clinical placements include physicians and nurse practitioners with practices in the areas required by the program focus. The preceptors will be responsible for mentoring, supervising and evaluating each student and providing feedback to the appropriate Wilkes University faculty member. The faculty members that will be involved in clinical instruction in New York are experientially and academically prepared at the appropriate level. The two faculty members that provide the clinical courses hold doctoral degrees with extensive practice experience in the field.

The University is located in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and has been accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education since 1937. The nursing programs at Wilkes University are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education until 2019 and fully approved by the Pennsylvania Board of Nursing.

Based on a canvass of nursing programs located within the Mid-Hudson Region, staff have determined that there would be no reduction in access to clinical experiences at the cooperating facilities if authorization is granted. Because of the limited nature of the University's authorization to operate in New York State, there have been no objections from New York nursing programs within the requested area of operation.

The Office of the Professions has determined that Wilkes University meets the standards for registration set forth in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.