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April 18, 1994

Dr. Charles Manning, Chancellor
WV Higher Education, Central Office
1018 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25301

Letter of Intent
Associate of Applied Science Degree
Respiratory Therapy Technology (Cooperative Program)

Dear Dr. Manning:

A Respiratory Therapy Technology program has been mentioned in the college's plans for over ten years. Dean Wilkin of our Community and Technical College has recently identified an opportunity to establish a cooperative Associate of Applied Science (AAS) program in Respiratory Therapy Technology.

Both the Carver Career Center (Kanawha Co., WV) and the Joint Vocational School (Lawrence Co., OH) offer a one year Respiratory Care Technician program. Graduates of these programs would continue their education with Marshall taking general education, science and advanced respiratory therapy courses to complete the two-year AAS Degree.

This cooperative program would both support and be in agreement with Marshall's mission and current areas of emphasis by meeting the need for personnel in rural health care settings in a very cost-effective manner.

High quality standards for the program will be assured in that only respiratory technicians who have completed an entire American Medical Association (AMA) approved program may apply for admission to this AAS program. Evidence of successful completion of the entry level Certified Respiratory Therapy Technician (CRTT) examination and date of certification must be submitted at time of application. Students completing the advanced phase of the program will complete the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) examination. It is anticipated that the proposed program would meet AMA and other accreditation agency requirements for program accreditation.

Currently, there are related associate degree level programs in West Virginia located at Northern West Virginia Community College, the University of Charleston and the College of West Virginia. In addition, Wheeling Jesuit College offers a baccalaureate program in Clinical Science/Respiratory Therapy. The University of Charleston also offers a 2+2 baccalaureate degree program in Respiratory Therapy Administration.

Trends in the field of respiratory care are indicative of a movement toward increased educational requirements on the part of respiratory care workers. While entry level positions require the CRTT, positions in intensive care specialties and at the supervisory level, require the RRT. Based on preliminary inquiry, it appears there is a substantial level of interest, on the part of currently enrolled respiratory therapy students, to continue their education to the AAS degree level.

The program/director, would be implemented through utilization of one full-time faculty supplemented by qualified faculty from the other cooperating institutions. Officials at the Lawrence County Joint Vocational School have indicated that we may utilize their facilities and equipment in offering advanced respiratory therapy courses. We believe this concept is worthy of further study and if implemented would constitute a cost-effective approach in meeting the need for respiratory care personnel in West Virginia and the Tri-State area.

Our goal is to develop the full program proposal by December, 1994, and to implement the program Fall 1995.

Sincerely,

J. Wade Gilley, President

JWG/kc