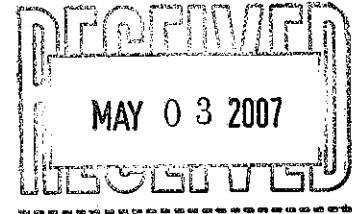




THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

APR 30 2007



Ms. Jennifer L. Butlin
Director
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530
Washington, DC 20036-1120

Dear Ms. Butlin:

At its December 4-6, 2006, meeting, the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (Committee) recommended that I renew for a period of five years the recognition of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) as a nationally recognized accrediting agency and grant an expansion of scope to include the accreditation of programs offering distance education. This recommendation was made under Sections 114 and 496 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, and pursuant to relevant statutory and regulatory provisions.

I concur with the recommendations of the Committee, including granting the requested expansion of scope. I am satisfied that accreditation by the CCNE is a required element in enabling its programs to establish eligibility to participate in non-HEA programs administered by the Department of Education or programs administered by other Federal agencies. Accordingly, I grant continued recognition, for a period of five years from the date of this letter, to the CCNE for the accreditation of nursing programs in the United States at the baccalaureate and graduate degree levels, including programs offering distance education.

Please convey my best wishes to the members of the CCNE. I appreciate their continuing efforts to improve the quality of postsecondary education in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Spellings".

Margaret Spellings