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STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
**BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES**  
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102  
Charleston, WV 25311-1620

January 16, 2012

Dr. Sheila Garland, Dean  
School of Nursing  
Mountain State University  
PO Box 9003  
Beckley, WV 25802-9003

Sent via e-mail and USPS

Dear Dr. Garland:

In session January 13, 2012, the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (Board) reviewed information related to Mountain State University School of Nursing. Representatives from the Board of Trustees, Mr. Max Beard, Mr. William H. File Jr, Mr. Elmer Cappoose and Dr. Lynn Blanchard were present and provided the opportunity to address the Board.

**The Board unanimously approved the following motion:**

**The West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses has exhausted every avenue to restore confidence in the current leadership of Mountain State University (MSU). The Board of Trustees is in essence stepping in with the promise of change and a request for leniency.**

**That pursuant to W. Va. Code 30-7-1, et seq. the WV RN Board is vested with the authority to approve schools of nursing for the purposes of accreditation.**

**That Mountain State University has failed to meet the standards of the Board in that it has failed to comply with the standards outlined in the Board's rule, and to correct deficiencies as stated in the Board's letter of November 12, 2010.**

**That as of today's date the Board has received additional information from the Board of Trustees at Mountain State University indicating it has adapted a new method of**

**communication and that it has a renewed commitment to meet the standards of the Board, the rule requirements and to thoroughly respond to requests of the Board.**

**The WV RN Board finds as follows:**

**That MSU has a history of acting in direct disregard to this Board's authority. MSU's continuation in attempting to manipulate facts and information has been both disrespectful and in total disregard to the standards set by the state legislature in its legislative rules, this Board and national accrediting agencies of institutions of higher education. The actions of MSU to date are inexcusable and defenseless.**

**Therefore, in the best interest of the public, it is the decision of this Board that MSU should not be granted full accreditation.**

**That the students of MSU have been insurmountably harmed to a degree that is immeasurable by this agency.**

**In the best interest of the public, the students and the community in which it exists, this Board will continue provisional accreditation of the nursing program of MSU for the following reasons:**

**-to allow Board staff the opportunity to review other educational options for MSU's currently enrolled nursing students;**

**-to allow MSU the opportunity to diligently work with any student wishing to transfer to another school of higher education;**

**-to allow MSU Board of Trustees and Dr. Sheila Garland the opportunity to provide this Board with information specifically outlining the changes it is committed to making to address the current problems existing at the University by February 13, 2012 for review at the Board's February 16, 2012 Board meeting . The MSU Board of Trustees and Dr. Sheila Garland will have until March 16, 2012 to provide substantial evidence of measurable accomplishments and outcomes.**

**-Further, MSU will continue to provide the Board with the required reports outlined in its letter of November 12, 2010 Board meeting and to comply with all the mandates of that letter, including no admissions. Further, MSU will stop readmitting students into the nursing program and eliminate any reference to pre-nursing and any reference indicating that pursuing a nursing degree at Mountain State University is a viable option at this time.**

Page 3

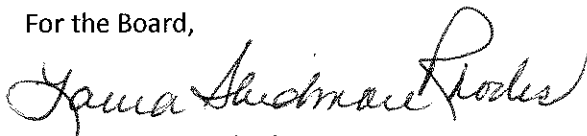
Mountain State University

**-MSU will provide the Board with evidence that it has diligently worked with any student wanting to transfer to another institution of higher education by providing the Board with the name of the student and the specific steps taken by MSU in assisting the student to transfer.**

**At any time, if the Board finds that MSU is not in compliance with the mandates of this Board, it will take the necessary steps to withdraw accreditation from the university.**

Should you have any questions please place them in writing to me at this address or through e-mail.

For the Board,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Skidmore Rhodes".

Laura Skidmore Rhodes  
Executive Director

[Laura.S.Rhodes@wv.gov](mailto:Laura.S.Rhodes@wv.gov)

Cc: Dr. Jerry Ice; Max Beard; William H. File, Jr; Elmer Cappoose; Dr. Lynn Blanchard; Dr. Charles Polk, President