July 8, 2010

Michael R. Bleich, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean
School of Nursing
Oregon Health & Science University
3455 SW US Veterans Hospital Road, SN-ADM
Portland, OR 97239-2941

Dear Dr. Bleich,

At its Spring 2010 meetings, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) Report Review Committee (RRC) reviewed the Report on Compliance with the Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs submitted by the CCNE-accredited master’s degree program in nursing at Oregon Health & Science University. I am pleased to inform you that the RRC has determined that the program has demonstrated compliance with the Criteria (National Task Force, 2008), and, therefore has demonstrated continued compliance with this requirement related to Key Element III-B of the CCNE Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Degree Nursing Programs (2009).

As background, incorporation of the NTF Criteria has been a requirement since the 2003 CCNE Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Degree Nursing Programs went into effect on January 1, 2005. The nurse practitioner certification organizations also have disseminated a letter indicating their reliance on CCNE’s accreditation review process to assess the quality and effectiveness of nurse practitioner programs nationally. In the letter dated March 15, 2010, the certification organizations state that "candidates applying to sit for our nurse practitioner examinations must have graduated from a nurse practitioner graduate program that has demonstrated compliance with the [NTF Criteria]." Refer to the letter online at http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Accreditation/pdf/LetterofSupportNTFC.pdf.

CCNE appreciates your response to the focused report, which was necessary in order for CCNE to assess whether nurse practitioner programs nationally continue to comply with the expectations set forth in the NTF Criteria. In the future, nurse practitioner programs will demonstrate their continued compliance with the Criteria as part of the accredited program’s regular Continuous Improvement Progress Report (CIPR) and on-site evaluation processes.

Thank you for participating in this important review process. The Commissioners join me in expressing our best wishes as you proceed with tasks important to the future of your nursing program.

Sincerely,

Carol Ledbetter, PhD, FNP, BC, FAAN
Chair, Board of Commissioners