

I am pleased to provide this testimonial on behalf of Caldwell University's School of Nursing and Health Service, Department of Nursing and its long-standing partnership with Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health (RWJBH) also known as "The System". Our collaboration continues to be a vital component of the educational and professional success of our nursing students and we express our strong support for RWJBarnabas Health and the renewal of State-appropriated funds to RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH) in the FY 2027 New Jersey State Budget.

Caldwell University is a Catholic Dominican institution rooted in the values of respect, integrity, community, and excellence. Our School of Nursing is guided by the University's mission to promote intellectual, spiritual and aesthetic growth to a diverse population and welcomes all cultures and faith traditions. Our alignment with RWJBH is both intentional and deeply synergistic. The System's emphasis on clinical excellence, and patient-centered that is culturally appropriate mirrors the goals of our program.

It is my opinion that the partnership with The System has been an extremely important component of educating our future nurses. Data reveals that a significant number of our graduates choose to begin their professional careers within the RWJBH system. Their decision to stay is a testament to the strong clinical experiences they receive while training on-site. These placements provide students with a supportive environment that fosters confidence, skill development, and a sense of belonging. Without this opportunity our students would not get the necessary experience caring for vulnerable and at-risk populations in their nursing education. This would be a disservice and impact the ability of novice nurses to have immediate contributions to the healthcare team.

During my most recent site visit, several students shared unsolicited, heartfelt feedback about their experience. They described the nursing staff as engaging, approachable, and extraordinarily kind. There was a strong emphasis on the kindness students were experiencing during their clinical rotation. Students reported that they felt comfortable seeking help from any member of the care team and never feared judgment or intimidation. Many noted how staff members took genuine interest in their learning, consistently checking in on their progress and involving them in patient care opportunities. Students were engaged in the care of adult populations with a variety of medical and psychosocial diagnoses. This welcoming atmosphere enhances clinical learning and cultivates the confidence and communication skills essential for new nurses entering the workforce to meet the needs of clients from diverse backgrounds.

For these reasons, our partnership with The System remains invaluable and continued State investment in the RWJBH is essential. Thank you for your collaboration as we work toward our goal of shaping the next generation of highly skilled, compassionate nursing professionals.

Sincerely,



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