August 5, 2016

Dear CCAC Nursing Students:

This letter is to inform you of general announcements and upcoming changes made by nursing faculty governance for the CCAC Nursing Program. Our goals are to improve both overall student success outcomes and produce quality, graduate nurses that will be responsive to meeting the health care needs of a diverse, global population in a safe and competent manner. These changes are based on sound rationales and evidenced-based practice that have been widely shared with nursing faculty and the College faculty and administrator members-at-large. Where appropriate the changes have been taken through the College Council hearing process.

**Uniform Changes for Fall 2017:**

The Quality Assurance Council has implemented a uniform change beginning Fall 2016. The new uniform will have a white top and a navy blue pant. Several students from upper levels have asked if they can purchase the new uniform. The implementation of the uniform change was intended for the new Fall 2016 cohort only so upper level students were not burdened with an additional cost. With that said, I have no problem with upper level students purchasing the new uniform. Please refer to the Dress Code for Clinicals in your Nursing Program Student Manual. Of importance is the need to be appropriately dressed when doing your Lab skills testing.

**New Lab Equipment (SimMan):**

The College President, Campus Presidents and our Provost have made it possible for each campus and program site to obtain a new SimMan. The Faculty and Lab Coordinators were oriented during summer break and will be incorporating enhanced simulation into class and/or lab experiences.

**ATI Testing and Remediation Changes Fall 2016:**

As of Fall 2016, the ATI course mastery testing will be moved into the nursing theory as a percentage of the grade. Please refer to the Nursing Program Student Manual. As a convenience I have also attached the two guidelines that reflect this change: Grading and Progression and ATI Remediation.
**ATI and Nurse Tote Prices for Fall 2016:**

**NURSING TOTES:**
- 110/120 nursing totes: $133.32
- 130/140 LPN tote: $54.66 (ONLY for LPN’s)
- Allegheny only “Medication Admin tote”: $22.50.

**ATI CODE/BOOK BUNDLES:**
- **NUR 110/120 ATI:** $360.25 (books and code)…..one payment of $360.25 in their 110/120 semester (Fall 2016) and one payment of $360.25 in their 130/140 semester (Spring 2017).
- **Boyce Fast Track “Only” for NUR 110/120 ATI:** $425.50…..one payment of $425.50 in their 110/120 semester (Fall 2016) and one payment of $425.50 in their 130/140 semester (Spring 2017).
- **NUR 130/140 ATI:** $283.00 (code only)….. CCAC students in their second semester of the program in the Fall of 2016 who will graduate in Dec 2017. This is their 2nd payment of $283.00.
- **LPN NUR 130/140 ATI:** $505.00 (books and code)….. CCAC students starting the program (advanced placement) in the Fall of 2016 who will graduate in Dec 2017

*ATI gives us new pricing every summer for students just starting the program the following Fall or Spring and that pricing stays with them for their whole 2 years.

*Boyce Fast Track students only will be required to purchase the ATI code letters plus two additional ATI products: *Dosage Calculation and Pharm Made Easy (PME).*

*Students that are already in the middle of their 2 years this Fall (NUR 130 students) will be using the pricing we were given last Summer because that is what they were already promised. They will be graduating Dec of 2017.

*LPN Advanced Placement Students pay a one-time flat rate.

Please Note:

1) The ATI code letters must be purchased within the first two weeks of class. At that time, Follett Bookstore will return the unclaimed code letters to the ATI company. If students do not have a code letter for access to the ATI site they will not be able to complete/fulfill course requirements.

2) The ATI company has recently updated their books to mirror the new test blueprint for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Exam (NCLEX). The new 2016 RN Review Modules/Books are available for pick up when you purchase your ATI Code letter at Follett Bookstore. The online ebooks will be available by the time you start classes. **The online ebooks are the most up to date resource, as they are continually being revised as needed.** Hard copies (book boxes) of the new ATI editions will be for new purchases only.
Book Store Tips:

The CCAC bookstore will do a “PRICE MATCH” with Amazon, Chegg, Barnes/Noble. The difference between the bookstore price and the “price match” will be given in a Follett Bookstore gift card which can be used to buy items in the CCAC bookstore, including syllabi packets, Skill Totes and ATI code letters.

Remember, students can use their Financial Aid in the bookstore beginning the Friday before the start of class (August 19th).

Changes in the Dean of Nursing Office:

Please welcome our Acting Director of Nursing, Tammy Sawmelle, who will work in the Dean’s office and will report directly to the Dean of Nursing. Mrs. Sawmelle has a rich background in nursing administration, education and clinical service. Mrs. Sawmelle will be our single point of contact with our clinical agencies, will administer nursing adjunct faculty and will be responsible for maintaining and analyzing program specific statistics.

College Strategic Planning Process:

The College has been actively involved in its Strategic Planning process. The College Strategic Plan will cover the period of 2016 through 2021. During the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, the Dean of Nursing and administrative staff will work with faculty, staff and students to revisit nursing’s mission, values and goals to ensure we are in alignment with those of the College. We hope that you will participate.

Lastly, there have been some major and a few minor updates to the Nursing Program Student Manual (NPSM) that all students must read comprehensively. Each student will receive a copy of the NPSM prior to the start of classes. The NPSM will be posted on the www.ccac.edu nursing program site as well as posted in Castlebranch (formerly known as Certified Background). All students are expected to upload their signed disclosure page into CastleBranch. Furthermore, as we continue to improve our nursing program to meet the rising professional standards, students can look forward to opportunities to participate in decision-making through various nursing faculty councils.

Sincerely,

Kathy Mayle, MA, MBA, MNEd, RN
Dean of Nursing