UR MEDICINE
MEDICINE of THE HIGHEST ORDER

July 26, 2022

Melissa Derleth
Chief Nursing Officer
Highland hospital
1000 South Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620

Dear Monroe Community College Nursing leadership:

As the Chief Nursing Officer of Highland hospital, I am writing to express our support for Monroe Community College's ***Transforming Lives through Nursing Pathways*** education and training proposal to grow the healthcare workforce in Monroe County. I support the college's request for funding as an important part of the county's *Bring Monroe Back* Coronavirus recovery initiative.

Highland continues to operate 261 licensed beds in Monroe county and heavily relies on hiring graduates from our region. We offer inpatient services for medical and surgical needs, ED, perioperative services, and family maternal care. Highland also operates a family practice and partners with many of the UR Medicine primary and specialty care physicians.

Should MCC be selected to receive funding, Highland is committed to supporting its success. We pledge to:

- Support community outreach and student recruiting efforts
- Provide tours for program faculty and students
- Advertise open positions through MCC's Handshake platform
- Participate in MCC Career Fairs
- Interview program completers for positions at Highland hospital
- Offer competitive wages for new hires
- Encourage senior employees to become adjunct professors
- Serve on one of MCC's health professions advisory boards

Lastly, Highland is confident that the ***Transforming Lives through Nursing Pathways*** program will provide new opportunities for Monroe County residents to obtain good paying jobs in the rapidly growing industry. Proposed connections to appropriate support services available through the college and other county partners will help grow the highly skilled workforce needed here.

Sincerely,

Melissa Derleth MS, RN, NEA-BC
Chief Nursing Officer
Highland hospital/UR Medicine
585.341.6812