

Nursing is blessed to have a very strong leadership group and a very strong and dedicated group of faculty.

### **III. Summary and Conclusion**

The faculty of the Department of Nursing at CSULB would like to apply for School of Nursing status within the College of Health and Human Services. The proposal submitted above specifies the manner in which the Department of Nursing meets the criteria for the formation of a school established by CSULB Policy Statement 97-01 "Name Change Policy for Academic Units".

1. The name change does not change the mission of the Department of Nursing. Consistent with the mission of the University, the mission of the School of Nursing will continue to be the education of undergraduate and graduate students to become quality professionals for entry into practice in their respective specialties in diverse community settings.
2. With respect to the implications to the curriculum, the name change from a department to school is not going to change the current curriculum. It will make the program more appealing to prospective students and faculty, donors of research grants and contracts, and for the prospect of developing an independent Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree or a joint doctoral program with another Ph.D. granting institution.
3. It is not anticipated that the name change from a Department of Nursing to School of Nursing will confuse prospective students, because the title of "Nursing" will stay in the name. No other discipline on the CSULB campus has the word "Nursing" in its title.
4. The Department of Nursing at CSULB plays a pivotal role in meeting the health care needs of the community in the Long Beach area by preparing qualified professional nurses both at the Baccalaureate and Masters degree levels. Our students are hired even before they graduate by major health care institutions and agencies in Long Beach, Los Angeles and Orange Counties and beyond. Through the expansion of its educational programs, CSULB Department of Nursing is contributing to the alleviation of the severe nursing shortage in the State of California. The Nursing Program's national contribution is in providing an innovative educational expansion model through partnership between a state agency and outside private agencies.
5. Student enrollment has grown exponentially in all areas with the help of strategic partnerships and collaboration with health care agencies and other stakeholders in an effort to build student capacity and satisfy mutual needs. These partnerships have taken several forms and have served several functions. For example, Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, Long Beach VA Medical Center and Hoag Hospital have provided expert practitioners and/or funding to augment the nursing faculty supply. Additionally, these three partners have given us physical resources and infrastructure as a means of overcoming limitations in clinical and classroom spaces.

Currently, we have 870 undergraduates and graduate nursing students. By 2012, our enrollment could reach close to 1020. Together with the prenursing students enrolled on our campus, the total number of students is going to be approximately 1520.

6. The nursing department is a complex teaching unit with four accrediting and credentialing bodies, six types of BSN programs (Basic BSN, Two-year Trimester BSN, Seamless BSN, RN-pathway, off-site BSN, Accelerated 18-month BSN for second degree students), a graduate program with five specializations, two offsite MSN to prepare clinical nurse specialists, two dual degree programs and a functional minor in nursing education to prepare nurse teachers. The large number of programs merits the school status. Additionally, the Department of Nursing has contracts with 240 outside agencies and 130 private physicians, to enable our students to have comprehensive learning experiences in a variety of clinical settings.

7. Although the Department of Nursing has been successful in generating funding sources from private organizations for expansion of educational programs and for traineeships, the school status will enable us to be more competitive in securing state and federal research funding.

Based upon the above major reasons, the faculty of the Department of Nursing at CSULB believes that the name change from a Department of Nursing to School of Nursing is warranted.