

August 26, 2014

Merrill Landers, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS
Chair and Associate Professor
Department of Physical Therapy
Division of Health Sciences
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 453029
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154

Dear Dr. Landers:

The School of Dental Medicine at the University of Nevada Las Vegas supports the academic program proposal requesting approval of a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences. Within our mission to teach students to provide patient-centered care and to foster critical thinking, we strive to prepare students for the complexities of the health profession by fully integrating interdisciplinary experiences into the dental school environment. Furthermore, we seek to provide an environment conducive to scholarly activity and to collaborative research. This proposed degree program mirrors much of what we strive to accomplish in preparing future dental health professionals.

In anticipation of approval of this program, we will be developing a Dental Science Sub-Plan Core to include approximately 20 credit hours of course content. Courses offered in the graduate programs including Pediatric Dentistry, Orthodontics and General Practice will be identified to support this core. Furthermore, we are in the process of developing a Dental Public Health Program that can provide additional offerings.

The Dental School has been actively involved in spearheading the Geriatric Interdisciplinary Simulation Center Training Course with the support of the Health Resources and Services Administration and in collaboration with the University of Nevada in Reno. This interdisciplinary experience has included participation from numerous health professionals throughout the state and has been recognized for its success. This experience has further fostered our commitment to interdisciplinary education and practice that we share with the Schools of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences.

I look forward to collaborating with both the School of Allied Health Sciences and the School of Nursing in the development and implementation of a successful Doctor of Philosophy Degree program in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences. I extend the support of my administration, faculty and staff in making this a reality. I look forward to our relationships in the future.

Sincerely,



Karen P. West, D.M.D., M.P.H.
Dean