



November 10, 2010

Elizabeth Orsega-Smith
Behavioral Health & Nutrition
University of Delaware
009 Carpenter Sports Building
Newark, DE 19716

RE: Permanent Status for Health Promotion Graduate Program

Dear Beth:

This letter is to indicate the College's strong support for making permanent the Health Promotion Graduate Program. I am very aware of the importance of the Health Promotion Graduate Program to our students. The continuation of the Program is critical to our focus on preparing leaders in the diverse health promotion fields who can translate science for the comprehensive promotion of health and prevention of disease among individuals and population across the lifespan.

This program addresses the increased need for behavior-related and population-based post-baccalaureate education by training students who will be able to assess individual and community need for health education and promotion, identify health behavior principles and theories as they apply to health promotion, implement health promotion strategies, interventions, and programs, and conduct evaluation and research related to health promotion.

The Health Promotion Graduate Program has proven success, with graduates placed in positions at Nemours Health and Prevention Services, Ogilvy Marketing, Towson University, Watermark Retirement Community, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Delaware Division of Public Health, CDC, AstraZeneca, and Preventive Medicine Rehabilitation Institute, to name a few.

The Health Promotion Graduate Program will be a cornerstone for the Department of Behavioral Health and Nutrition. With the emphasis on prevention of chronic disease and promotion of healthy lifestyles, the mission of the program is key to developing individuals and communities with sustainable healthy lifestyles. Students participating in the Program are also able to concurrently gain experience in key areas in the University community (Healthy HENS, Activity Courses, Employee Wellness Center) and the external community (Nemours, WIC, Christiana Care, and local senior centers).

Our ultimate goal is to help our students excel in their chosen profession in the arena of health, and making this program permanent will contribute greatly to educating the next generation of thought leaders and healthcare professionals.

Sincerely,

Kathleen S. Matt, PhD
Dean, College of Health Sciences
ksmatt@udel.edu
302.831.8379