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April 26, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Samueli Foundation to express support of the creation of the Integrative Health Coach (IHC) program at Orange Coast College. In order to better serve the health needs of the community, The Samueli Foundation has made legacy gifts focused on the establishment of Integrative Medicine approaches.

In order to support the planning and implementation processes this shift in delivery of health care requires, Orange County health clinics provided feedback on desired staffing and the knowledge/education these positions require in order to implement the integrative medicine model. One of the staffing positions they identified is a new type of medical professional trained to help patients navigate the available resources and develop attainable behavior modification strategies needed for their long-term health and improved health outcomes.

We have partnered with Orange Coast College to create this new program, as it is vital and essential in meeting the needs of the county-wide medical clinics. This is a certificate-level program, which will enable students to gain the knowledge and experience required to be placed within county-wide clinics. Integrative Health Coaches will manage patients' navigation of the various medical, nutritional, behavior changes, and emotional needs for better health outcomes. The Integrative Health Coach (navigator) position is not one that requires either a bachelor's, master's, nursing, or medical degree; there are other positions the clinics have identified that do require these additional degrees and knowledge.

We recognize there are other positions titled 'Health Coach' that exist throughout the country. However, the creation of this IHC certificate program is based on the needs of the Orange County community clinics, and is now defined by Orange Coast College's curriculum. The IHC is a new and innovative position required for successful implementation of the integrative medicine model that is rolling out through community clinics in Orange County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald R. Solomon".

Gerald R. Solomon,
Executive Director