Professional Support and Collaboration

The American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC), California Society for Respiratory Care (CSRC), Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care ( COARC), LAVC RT Advisory Board and California Respiratory Care Board (RCB) have been reviewing the necessity of changing the minimum standard for Respiratory Care Practitioners (RCP) form an Associate of Science to a Bachelorette of Science degree.

* 2015 – AARC published a white paper supporting a minimum BS degree by 2030 ( see appendix AARC white paper) <https://www.aarc.org/aarc-calls-for-a-shift-to-rt-bachelors-degree-programs/>
* 2017 CoARC standard – all new RT programs must include a BS degree
* 2018 – CoARC completed LAVC site visit and accreditation was granted through 2028. LAVC will issue substantive change to request accreditation of a BS program if the application is approved. ( see attached School Summary)
* 2121 – CSRC issued a statement supporting the minimum BS degree by 2030(see attachments CSRC letter and agenda) and at the spring 2021 meeting listed a predicted timeline for implementation and gaps.
* 2121 – RCB predicted timeline to a minimum BS degree requirement by 2035
* 2121 – LAVC RT Advisory board recommended
* the development of a BS in RT focusing on advanced critical care ( see attached Advisory minutes)

RT directors at area medical centers including UCLA, USC, and Cedars Sinai Medical Centers gave signed letters of attestation supporting requiring a minimum BS degree. USC and CSMC have a minimum hiring standard for a BS degree in place. (see attachment – letters). OEI also sent a survey to other medical centers asking if they support a minimum BS, would pay more for a BS, and have they had problems filling current RT positions that require a BS degree. (see attached survey results). The results consistently supported that there is a clear need for BS degree RT’s.