



Dear California Community College Chancellor's Office,

Nanette Solvason, Regional Director for the Healthcare Sector, BACCC, and Araceli Nunez, North Bay Sub Regional Director, BACCC, are pleased to enthusiastically support Napa Valley College's proposal to launch a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy.

Napa Valley College's Respiratory Care Program is exemplary among respiratory care programs across the state being recognized with the Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). With consistent outcomes exceeding CoARC thresholds and accreditation standards, this program has shown an unwavering commitment to excellence in student preparation and success. The program's leadership, faculty, and students have exemplified dedication to the highest standards in respiratory care education.

The Respiratory Care Board of California has strongly endorsed Napa Valley College's proposal to offer a baccalaureate degree. Local healthcare facilities have recognized the program's rigorous training for producing well-prepared respiratory therapists (RTs) to meet workforce demands. However, with California's aging population and the rise in chronic lung diseases, a bachelor's degree provides advanced training. It improves critical thinking skills preparing students to enter the workforce more confidently. A baccalaureate degree in RT is often required for transition to leadership roles within healthcare systems, therefore this additional training will prepare students for positions in management, research, and education. Offering a cost-effective community college baccalaureate degree will play a crucial role in filling this educational void and preparing the next generation of respiratory care leaders.

We are especially proud of Napa Valley College's proposal to integrate "Credit for Prior Learning," recognizing relevant experiential qualifications, and enabling students to complete the program in approximately 18 months. The first cohort is expected to begin in Fall 2026, offering a timely response to the workforce demands in respiratory care.

We fully support this initiative and believe that the proposed BS in Respiratory Therapy program will significantly contribute to the advancement of respiratory care education, strengthen the regional workforce, and meet the critical needs of healthcare facilities across the state.

Thank you for considering this important proposal. Napa Valley College's commitment to excellence and innovation makes them the ideal institution to lead this effort.

Sincerely,
Nanette Solvason 
Regional Director, Healthcare Sector
Bay Area Community College Consortium (BACCC)

nanette.solvason@baccc.net | baccc.net



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Araceli Nunez 
Subregional Director, North Bay
Bay Area Community College Consortium (BACCC)

araceli.nunez@baccc.net | baccc.net



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