

*Office of Student Affairs*

January 6, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I write this letter of support for an undergraduate program to award a bachelor's degree in Dental Hygiene at West Los Angeles College. As the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, I see the extreme value in such an offering and the potential pathway this creates toward a masters, or even doctorate degree, in public health for students from WLAC.

The mission of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, one of the top ten schools of public health in the nation, is to educate students whose passion is public health and who wish to return to their communities to impact the lives of their communities. The FSPH is one of the most diverse Schools of Public Health in the nation, and we are constantly striving to increase those numbers to reflect the communities that we serve and impact. By allowing WLAC to create this bachelor's degree program you will be creating a pathway from, and back to, underserved communities in the Los Angeles area.

We at the Fielding School are also excited to partner with WLAC to help design the curriculum, if this program should be selected. The Fielding School could lend our expertise in curriculum development in public health, offer workshops and outreach to WLAC for professional development for their faculty/staff, and offer pathway workshops for WLAC students. Our doctoral students who wish to enter the academy are well poised to teach classes within the new undergraduate curriculum that would be created.

It is estimated by the year 2020 that there will be a shortage of 250,000 public health workers in the United States. This program will offer opportunities to students to gain extremely important knowledge and expertise and return to directly to their communities to impact the lives of generations to come. The UCLA Fielding School of Public Health overwhelmingly supports this mission, and hopes West Los Angeles College is selected in this pilot program.

Sincerely,



David D. Clark

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

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