

APPENDIX F

GCU Meridian Nursing Honor Society

The GCU Meridian Nursing Honor Society seeks to become a chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI). This has been a goal of GCU Meridian Nursing Honor Society since the first steering committee meeting, January 21, 2015. With the initial formation of the School of Nursing in 2008, Dr. Theresa Wurmser and Dr. Jane Bliss-Holtz set as a long-term goal the development of a nursing honor society. In the spring of 2014, faculty member Dr. Jo Ann Cummings and junior nursing student Brigid Joyce initiated the development of the nursing honor society. They looked at joining with already existing societies and STTI chapters but felt the autonomy of having their own chapter was the most appropriate direction. In concert with the vision and core values of STTI, the GCU Meridian Nursing Honor Society strives to promote scholarship, leadership and service. The honor society is committed to fostering a culture of excellence by supporting student nurses and nurses to provide the highest quality, evidence-based, patient and family centered health and to participate in the advancement of the profession, and engage in life-long learning. With the support of STTI, faculty and students followed the guidelines toward starting a new chapter. The first step was the formation of an honor society. The first induction was held on April 03, 2016 with 52 inductees.

The Georgian Court-Meridian Health School of Nursing program opened in the fall of 2008 and graduated its first cohort of students in May 2012. The Georgian Court–Meridian Health Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) degree program was awarded initial accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) through 2017. The CCNE granted reaccreditation for 10 years through 2027. In addition, the program has been granted full accreditation from the State of New Jersey Board of Nursing Licensure through 2024.

In the 10 years, the program has gained a reputation for academic excellence and has helped to address the escalating nursing shortage in New Jersey and nationally. The school of nursing prepares graduates to be professional nurses who work in collaboration with other members of the healthcare team to provide holistic patient-centered care. The school of nursing continues to seek out partnerships that would help ensure that the communities we serve have access to services that meet their present and future health care needs. The GCU Meridian Nursing Honor Society reflects these values and highlights the accomplishments of our baccalaureate students and alumni.

Since the beginning, the Honor Society board was established following STTI guidelines. In the Spring of 2016, new members were inducted into the society and STTI bylaws were adopted and implemented as of April 2016. Regular scheduled society board meetings have occurred since the Spring of 2016. The board has worked diligently with faculty, students, and nurse leaders to fulfill the mission and values of the honor society to give back to build leaders, give back to the profession, and to give back to the community. In the Spring of 2017, the GCU Meridian Nursing Honor Society held its second induction ceremony.

The honor society board, school of nursing, and university leadership see the establishment of a new chapter in STTI as a fulfillment of nursing leadership, service and support toward excellence in the nursing global vision and as such the GCU Meridian Nursing Honor Society seeks for full membership in Sigma Theta Tau International.