



1801 West Sample Road
Suite #301
Deerfield Beach, FL 33064
Tel. 954.486.4085

February 19, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

We are pleased to write a letter of support regarding our externship with Keiser University. We have had an Education Affiliation Agreement with Keiser since 10/14/2009. This collaborative partnership has allowed us to work with Keiser nursing interns to provide a foundation of educational excellence throughout Broward County, and to bring awareness to the VITAS Hospice experience, and our need to provide our County with exceptional nursing graduates. The Keiser nursing interns bring such energetic passion to our community, and support our nursing staff, in particular, with our hospice nurses at our inpatient units, ALF's and nursing homes. In the past (pre COVID pandemic) they have also assisted VITAS with our job fairs.

Due to current COVID 19 Pandemic restrictions, we were unable to allow Keiser nursing interns on our inpatient units, ALFs and Nursing Homes. However, we were able to collaborate with Keiser in our new VITAS Proactive calling program. This program makes and documents proactive calls to our VITAS patients and caregivers, and provides support and assess any needs and questions. Keiser students listen carefully to any concerns or questions our patients/families may have and document their notes into a secured web portal and follow-up with Team Managers and Patient Care Administrators if there are any urgent or critical issues with our patients or caregivers. This gives the Keiser University nursing interns the ability to interact directly with our patients and families, and provides an important dynamic for them into the Hospice experience. They receive full orientation and training, and have direct support from our clinical staff.

We feel the quality of our Keiser University nursing interns are of a very high caliber. They responsibly follow-up with all mandatory compliance required to do a hospice internship. In our nursing educational training sessions, they are very engaged and eager to learn about the Hospice philosophy and Hospice appropriateness. They ask thought provoking questions regarding the materials presented. Many of them have said we were their very first experience in understanding the multi- dynamics of a hospice patient, and found our educational training sessions to be of great value in deciding their future nursing career path.

In closing, we look forward to our continued partnership with Keiser ASN/BSN nursing interns, as they provide VITAS with exceptional clinical excellence to assist our hospice nurses provided continuous quality care to our hospice patients of Broward County.

Mary Ann Watson, RN
Clinical Educator and Performance Improvement
VITAS Veteran Advocate
MaryAnn.Watson@vitas.com
954-529-4844
1801 West Sample Road
Pompano Beach, FL 33064

Laurel A. Torres
Manager of Volunteer Services
VITAS Program 14 – Broward County
laurel.torres@vitas.com
(954) 777-5396
1801 West Sample Road
Pompano Beach, FL 33064