

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA  
BOARD OF NURSING**

In the Matter of  
South Central College  
Associate Degree Nursing Program

**REPORT TO THE BOARD WITH CONSENT OF  
PROGRAM REVIEW PANEL  
RECOMMENDATION OF REPRIMAND**

The South Central College Associate Degree Nursing Program ("Program") and the Minnesota Board of Nursing Review Panel ("Review Panel") agree that the above-referenced matter may be resolved without trial of any issue or fact as follows:

**I.**

**JURISDICTION**

1 The Minnesota Board of Nursing ("Board") is authorized pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 148.251 to approve nursing programs, survey approved programs to determine compliance with Board Rules and continue or revoke approval based on the determination of compliance or non-compliance.

2 The Program is currently approved by the Board and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board with respect to the matter referred to in this Recommendation of Reprimand.

**II.**

**BACKGROUND**

3 On February 27, 2026, Dr. Elizabeth Thompson, Program Director; Laura Attenberger, Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Brian Tiegs, Vice President of Human Resources, appeared on behalf of the Program at a conference with a Board Review Panel. The Review Panel was composed of Board Members Jessica Miehe and Tracy Sonterre-Rieger. JaCinda Downs, Nursing Education Specialist; Deborah Schuhmacher, Director of Nursing Education, and Melissa Wolfe, Education Program Assistant were present for the conference. The Program met with the Review Panel to discuss allegations contained in a Notice of Conference dated January 26, 2026. Erin Farmer, Assistant Attorney General, represented the Review Panel. Maura Allen, Assistant Attorney General, represented the Program.

### **III.**

#### **FACTS**

4. On September 26, 2025, Board Education staff reviewed the Program's annual compliance submission. The survey indicated that the Program used an associate degree-prepared faculty to fill a clinical vacancy at South Central College.

5. On September 26, 2025, Board staff discussed the concerns with the Program Director. The Program Director confirmed that one nursing faculty member did not hold a graduate degree in nursing, as required by Minnesota Rule 6301.2340, subpart 3.A(11).

6. By letter dated October 7, 2025, the Board notified the Program of a survey scheduled for December 19, 2025, related to alleged non-compliance with Board rules. In preparation for the survey, the Program was asked to submit its fall 2025 associate degree nursing faculty assignments for all theory and clinical courses, current job posting, and South Central College's faculty hiring policy and procedure.

7. On December 19, 2025, a Board member and Board staff conducted a survey of the Program and confirmed that one nursing faculty member did not have the minimum academic credentials to teach in an approved associate degree nursing program in Minnesota. The results of the December 19, 2025, survey indicated that Minnesota Rule 6301.2340, subpart 3.A(11) was not met.

8. At the conference on February 27, 2026, the Program admitted that it did not comply with Minnesota Rule 6301.2340, subpart 3.A(11), during the spring and fall 2025 terms. The Program provided additional information satisfactory to the Panel that as of the time of the conference, the Program was compliant with Minnesota Rule 6301.2340, subpart 3.A(11).

### **IV.**

#### **LAWS**

9. The Program acknowledges that it did not comply with Minnesota Rule 6301.2340, subpart 3.A(11) as it pertained to an associate degree-prepared nursing faculty hired to teach the spring and fall semesters 2025 in the nursing program and justifies the action described in Section V. below.

**V.**

**BOARD ACTION**

**10.** The Review Panel and the Program agree the Board may take the following action: The Board **REPRIMANDS** the Program for its failure to comply with Minnesota Rules 6301.2340, subpart 3.A(11). This action does not change the Program's approval status, and the Program remains on the list of approved programs.

**VI.**

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**11.** By agreeing to this report and recommendation to the Board, the Program waives the contested case hearing before an Administrative Law Judge of the Office of Administrative Hearings, and all other procedures to which the Program may be entitled under the Minnesota and United States constitutions, statutes, or rules.

**12.** The Program waives any claims against the Board, the Minnesota Attorney General, the State of Minnesota, and their agents, employees, and representatives related to the investigation of the conduct herein, or the negotiation or execution of this Order of Reprimand to the Board.

**13.** This Review Panel Recommendation of Reprimand, the files, records, and proceedings associated with this matter shall constitute the entire record and may be reviewed by the Board in its consideration of this matter.

**14.** Representatives of the Program have read, understand, and agree to this Recommendation of Reprimand, and have voluntarily signed it.

**15.** This Recommendation of Reprimand shall not limit the Board's authority to proceed against the Program by initiating a contested case hearing or by other appropriate means on the basis of any act, conduct, or admission not directly related to the specific facts and circumstances set forth herein.

**VII.**

**NOTICE PURSUANT TO THE MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT DATA  
PRACTICES ACT**

16. Under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, information given to the Board following a compliance survey of a nursing education program is classified as public. This information will be used by the Board in evaluating the allegations of lack of compliance with one or more rules made against the program. This Reprimand Order, and any subsequent Board action on this matter, are also classified as public data.

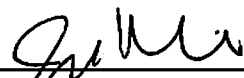
17. This Recommendation of Reprimand contains the entire agreement between the parties, there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise, which varies the terms of this Recommendation of Reprimand.

**CONSENT:**

**SOUTH CENTRAL COLLEGE ASSOCIATE DEGREE  
NURSING PROGRAM**

**BOARD OF NURSING  
REVIEW PANEL**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**ELIZABETH THOMPSON**  
Director of the Program

  
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**JESSICA MIEHE**  
Board Member

  
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**LAURA ATTENBERGER**  
Vice President of Academic Affairs

Representatives of the Program

Dated: March 26, 2026

Dated: 4/21, 2026

**ORDER**

Upon consideration of this order, the Board issues the Program a **REPRIMAND** and adopts all of the terms described above on this 2ND day of April, 2026.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF  
NURSING



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CAREN GAYTKO  
Executive Director