

CT OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION ANNOUNCES SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF PROGRAM FOR FORMER STONE ACADEMY PRACTICAL NURSING STUDENTS

HARTFORD, CT – The Connecticut Office of Higher Education (OHE) today announced the successful completion of a special remediation and exit examination program developed to assist former Stone Academy Practical Nursing students who were unable to complete their program requirements following the school's closure. **Seventeen former Stone Academy students completed specialized remediation and exit exam program; as of August 10th, all 10 graduates who had taken the NCLEX-PN passed.**

The students served by the program had completed most or all of their Practical Nursing coursework and clinical requirements at Stone Academy but had not successfully completed the school's required exit examination. After Stone Academy closed, they no longer had a way to satisfy that final requirement, leaving some unable to complete their programs for several years.

According to **OHE Commissioner Timothy D. Larson**, OHE worked closely with Lincoln Technical Institute to develop a targeted solution that recognized the substantial education students had already completed while providing the academic support and assessment necessary to give them a meaningful opportunity to finish their Stone Academy program requirements.

"This group of students had already invested an extraordinary amount of time, effort and resources into becoming practical nurses, only to find themselves unable to finish because their school had closed," said **Larson**. "We were committed to finding a responsible way to help them move forward. Lincoln Technical Institute stepped up as a partner, and the results demonstrate what can be accomplished when state government and educational institutions work together with a common focus on students."

The program was developed in connection with the resolution of litigation involving former Stone Academy students and provided eligible students with a structured pathway to complete their remaining academic requirements. Lincoln Technical Institute delivered faculty-led remediation, nursing skills review, Virtual ATI (VATI), individualized student support and administration of the required ATI exit examination.

"These students persisted through circumstances none of them could have anticipated when they first enrolled in nursing school," **Larson** said. "For years, they were caught between having completed nearly all their education and having no opportunity to satisfy the final requirement."

Their determination to return, complete this program and continue pursuing careers in nursing deserves tremendous recognition.”

A total of **23 former Stone Academy students enrolled in the program, and 17 successfully completed all requirements. Six students withdrew or did not complete the program.**

According to **Larson**, early outcomes for program completers have been particularly encouraging. And although preparation for the national nursing licensure examination was not the primary purpose of the program, successful completion of the ATI exit examination is an important measure of nursing knowledge and readiness.

Larson also credited the administration, faculty and staff of Lincoln Technical Institute for developing and delivering a program tailored specifically to the circumstances of the former Stone Academy students. “This effort required close coordination between OHE and Lincoln to establish an appropriate academic structure, schedule, student support and assessment process for students returning to their studies after a significant interruption.”

“This was not a traditional teach-out or transfer arrangement,” added **Larson**. “The goal was not to ask students to start over. It was to recognize the education they had already completed, provide the remediation and support they needed, and give them a fair opportunity to demonstrate that they had satisfied the requirements of the program they began at Stone Academy.”

Students who successfully completed the required remediation and exit examination received a **Certificate of Completion from the Connecticut Office of Higher Education** recognizing completion of the former Stone Academy Practical Nursing Program.

OHE continues to work on behalf of students affected by institutional closures and to identify solutions that protect students, preserve educational progress whenever possible and provide practical pathways forward when traditional transfer or teach-out options are unavailable.

The Connecticut Office of Higher Education works to advance educational opportunities, student success and consumer protection while carrying out the responsibilities assigned to the Office under Connecticut statute.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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