

June 23, 2023

Dear Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Students and Stakeholders,

On June 21, 2023, SONHP received communication from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) that at its meeting on May 22, 2023, the CCNE Board of Commissioners voted to require USF DNP program to show cause as to why accreditation should not be withdrawn based on our compliance with CCNE Standard Key Element IV-B - program completion rates demonstrating program effectiveness.

We know that this decision from CCNE that SONHP received on June 21 is of significant concern to you. I write to reassure you of the following:

- The issuance of a show cause directive is *not an adverse action*, but a statement of serious concern by the Board regarding our compliance with CCNE Standard Key Element IV-B.
- *We will remain accredited by CCNE during the review period.* Furthermore, the DNP program successfully meets all other CCNE accreditation standards.
  - We must respond to the Board's concerns by January 16, 2024 and demonstrate why adverse action should not be taken against the program. The Board will consider the program's response at a subsequent meeting (which occurs March and July each year), and may act to vacate the show cause, continue the show cause and require additional reporting or a focused on-site evaluation, or take adverse action. Because a show cause directive is not an adverse action, it is not appealable. A program may remain subject to a show cause directive for no longer than 12 months.
- We remain committed to the learning, experience, and completion of our students in their DNP degree programs.

- We will continue to work diligently to address the concerns raised by our accreditor. Our approach will be thoughtful, strategic and supported by evidence. We will provide a substantive follow-up report by January 16, 2024, including supporting evidence and appropriate documentation, to demonstrate the DNP program's compliance with Standard IV and Key Element IV-B, in particular.

Importantly, I would like each of you to know that I appreciate all that you do and continue to contribute to the program, to USF, and the profession. The work of all of the DNP faculty, staff and our SONHP community is important. I am very proud of the impressive work that we do together in SONHP and we will navigate this challenge as a team as well.

Please direct any concerns to me at [efrybowers@usfca.edu](mailto:efrybowers@usfca.edu). For more information regarding accreditation, please see the [CCNE Standards of Accreditation](#).

Thank you again for your commitment to USF and to excellence in nursing.

Sincerely,

Eileen K. Fry-Bowers PhD, JD, RN, CPNP-PC, FAAN  
Dean and Professor  
University of San Francisco  
School of Nursing and Health Professions