

Marian Shaughnessy
NUND 506
Final Project Letter
April 7, 2012

January 2, 2013

Dear Dr. Fitzpatrick,

The Nursing Institute is becoming a reality as we begin a new year. Since my completion of NUND 506, I have been able to implement many strategies and concepts from our class studies. It is amazing how my leadership practice has been enhanced by this dynamic course.

So many aspects of the class contributed to my growth in leadership. The texts were informative and my extraordinary classmates offered volumes to my learning. Also, your expectations and standards were so high that I was inspired to learn and absorb all that was being presented and discussed. You kept the class on a learning journey, and helped us to understand what it means to have a new mental model, with new rules and a motivation to see things differently.

The course has also taught me that ninety percent of the leadership role is devoted to relationships. I have reviewed my own vulnerability and self-knowledge in order to grow in this role. Since we are moving into a new age of accountability and ownership, I have found that this learning on leadership is not only timely in our society, but it has motivated me to question preexisting practices and to develop more efficient ways to review challenges.

As you know, during the class session, I was able to identify my personal list of values, beliefs and characteristics. Moreover, I have been able to seek out and

enlist six strong individuals that align with these while serving on my personal board of directors. These board members possess a keen intelligence that is refreshing and unique, similar to the description in the text, *Appreciative Intelligence*. As a result, they have been helping me lay the groundwork for the Nursing Institute. The Leadership Institute will become the exclusive training facility for leaders in nursing. My hope is to integrate not only national nursing leaders, but also potentially global ones as well. There are countless nurses who would benefit from the “ripple effect” created when one Institute participant shares the knowledge with another.

Now more than ever, nurses must seize the opportunity to be not just facilitators of healthcare, but rather leaders in their own right. Participants will be able to demonstrate the leadership so sorely needed in our profession and healthcare systems. They will be the agents of change responsible for providing others with a lighted path for positive changes in the nursing field.

The leadership course is exactly what I needed professionally to facilitate my personal goals in nursing. As Ronald Reagan once said during his presidency, “A leader, once convinced a particular course of action is the right one, must have the determination to stick with it.” I believe that with the right people and support in place, the Leadership Institute will become a well-respected reality. Leading change is what Quantum leadership is about. I have discovered that my behavior must show my own commitment to keep on the journey and to help others build a desired future.

Thank you for your insight, coaching and wisdom you so thoughtfully shared with my classmates and me throughout the course. I will keep you abreast of the ongoing development of the Nursing Leadership Institute and my progress throughout the years of this development.

Sincerely,

Marian K. Shaughnessy