October 30, 2014

Dr. Mano Singham
Director
University Center for Innovation in Teaching and Education
Allen Memorial Library Building
Room 101, LC 7025
Case Western Reserve University
10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Dr. Singham:

This letter is written in application for a Nord Grant at Case Western Reserve University. I am seeking support to attend a seminar titled, Case Method Teaching Seminar at Harvard University.

In October, 2013, I was the recipient of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing (FPBSON) Innovation Award to develop the Bolton Case Studies (BCS) Program. The BCS program is designed to construct and disseminate case studies based on actual health related issues and life situations having direct health care implications. Health equity, or “the attainment of the highest level of health of all people,” will be the focus of the Case Studies Program (U.S. Public Law, 2000).

Health professional schools are challenged to adequately prepare students for the world of practice especially now that the nation is at the cusp of health care reform and engagement with demographically diverse populations has increased. Classroom and simulation experiences must translate directly into real-life activity and facilitate appropriate diagnosing, decision-making, and actions in complex, unpredictable health care arenas. Although cultural content is incorporated throughout the FPB School of Nursing curriculum and is included in many health professional programs, there is a need to further advance students’ comprehension of, and ability to, appropriately address contextual factors and cultural nuances affecting health status and health outcomes of dynamically changing groups. Acquisition of such skills will optimize health care and will ultimately contribute to reducing health inequities/health disparities. The case study method is an effective teaching strategy used to vivify complex conditions and situations. Case studies foster higher levels of critical thinking and often lead to the uncovering of researchable questions. Practical knowledge through discussion, simulation, and reflection are enhanced as the intricacies of specific situations are revealed.
Through the FPBSON Innovation Award, support is being provided to establish the foundation and structure for developing the Bolton Case Studies Program and determine the feasibility of implementing the program. Clinical scenarios/incidents that can be developed into case studies will be multifaceted and sought from a range of sources including clinical facilities, professional organizations, health professionals, and health consumers through interviews, observations, focus groups, and chart reviews. Protocols to insure the privacy of participants, such as HIPPA and human subject protections, will be honored. In addition, strategies to effectively teach and integrate case studies in nursing and inter-professional curricula will be developed. Funding from the FPBSON Innovation Award has been available to cover primarily the part time salary of a graduate student for one year to assist in the solicitation, development, and refinement of case studies.

A Nord Grant is sought to extend and enhance the development of the program. Funding from a Nord Grant will be used to defray the costs of enrolling in a class/workshop, *Teaching by the Case Method*. This two day, interactive course, offered at Harvard University, a pioneer and leader in case-based learning, provides the most current constructs and approaches to case study development and teaching. Content areas will include: Overview of Case Writing Principles, Establishing and Reshaping the Learning Contract, Questioning, Listening and Responding, The Teacher/Student Relationship, Designing the Discussion Plan, Practicing the Skill, and other relevant topics. Attendees will experience the seminar both as instructor and student.

Participation in this course will insure that the BCS program will be developed using the most state-of-the-art approaches. Further, the seminar will provide a forum in which a supportive, interdisciplinary network of professionals, with expertise in case study development, will be available during the development of the BCS program.

A budget, with justifications, is attached.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Killion, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.
Associate Professor

Jaclene Zauszniewski, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.
Director of the Ph.D. Program and
The Kate Hanna Harvey Professor in Public Health
Case Method Teaching Seminar
NORD Grant Budget

Academic Registration Fee $695.00
The academic registration fee includes program materials and meals while the seminar is in session.

Lodging $258.00
Hotel accommodations will be available at the Doubletree Guest Suites in Boston, MA at a rate of $179.00 per night. Coverage for two nights is requested.

Airfare $402.00
Roundtrip Airfare from Cleveland to Boston and Return.

Ground travel $60.00
Round trip ground travel from the airport to the campus is requested.

Total $1415.00