



"Transitional Living & Learning for Individuals with Brain Injuries"

February 6, 2015

Dr. Erlinda J. Martinez
President, Santa Ana College
1530 West 17th Street
Santa Ana, California 92706

Dear Dr. Martinez,

Winways, a post acute community based rehabilitation program working with adults who have had brain injuries, strokes, or other neurological conditions, is pleased to write this letter in support of Santa Ana College's proposed baccalaureate degree in Occupational Studies. Santa Ana College continues to host a highly successful Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Program that is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. We have worked closely with the OTA program for many years and are a facility where their students do field work assignments. The proposed B.S. degree features more in depth training and research based evidence for best practices in the field and will provide a solid foundation for practitioners seeking to transition to graduate level course work in Occupational Therapy.

Winways is located in Orange, California. We serve about 30 clients per year. All of our clients receive occupational therapy services. OTA students from Santa Ana work with our staff OTA during their fieldwork placements. Your students are typically very excited about their career as an OTA and I think the proposed B.S. degree gives them opportunity for more learning and training in this ever changing field. I have seen your graduates working in many hospitals throughout Orange County. They seem very committed to their careers.

In supporting Santa Ana College's proposal, we acknowledge that the baccalaureate degree in Occupational Studies would increase the breadth and depth in all areas of clinical training of OTA students and COTA staff including: specific clinical practice techniques, healthcare ethics, cultural competency, application of research-based evidence, documentation, and professional growth. We hope it may include some training in new technologies including use of video gaming consoles, robotics, smart phone "apps", and computer based training.

Winways will continue to work with Santa Ana College and the current Occupational Therapy Assistant program. We are thrilled about the proposed Occupational Studies baccalaureate degree program.

Pamela Kauss, M.S.
Pamela Kauss, M.S., Director