COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION
FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

November 13, 2026

Michael Gutierrez, MPH, President
Respiratory Care Program
Hartnell College
411 Central Ave
Salinas, CA 93901

RE: Program Number 510042

Dear Dr. Gutierrez:

At its November 2026 meeting, the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) voted to confer **Provisional Accreditation** to the BS Degree Advancement Respiratory Care Program at Hartnell College in Salinas, CA. A maximum annual enrollment of **35 students** has been approved.

In addition to maintaining continuous compliance with the Standards, the Program must meet all administrative requirements outlined in the CoARC Accreditation Policies and Procedures Manual. Among these requirements is the timely submission of all requested and scheduled documentation to both the Executive Office and Program Referee, as specified in CoARC Policy 4.03. Accordingly, the Program must electronically submit an Annual Report of Current Status each year. The initial Report is due **July 1, 2027**. The Executive Office will contact the Program at the appropriate time to provide the specifics of setting up, completing, and submitting the Annual Report of Current Status.

The next step in accreditation is to complete and submit the Continuing Accreditation Self Study Report (CSSR) and fees to CoARC within six months after the Annual Report of Current Status that includes three years of outcomes. The due date for the CSSR will be set based on the established expected graduation date of the Program's first cohort, which will be determined for Hartnell College upon submission of the next Annual Report of Current Status. The Program will be informed as soon as the CSSR due date has been determined. Once the Referee has determined that the CSSR is acceptable, the Executive Office will arrange a site visit, which is to be conducted within six (6) months of the Referee's approval of the CSSR. The Annual Reports of Current Status must be submitted each year as described above.

The Program must also comply with proper disclosure policies (11.01 and 11.02) which state the following:

11.01 The CoARC requires institutions and programs to be accurate in reporting a program's accreditation status to the public.

A. Programs must inform all current students and applicants in writing of any changes in the program's accreditation status.

B. If an institution is seeking CoARC accreditation for a program and has submitted a Letter of Intent Application or has received an Approval of Intent, the institution must make the following disclosure:

"[Name of sponsor] is currently in the process of seeking CoARC accreditation for a respiratory care program. However, [Name of sponsor] can provide no assurance that accreditation will be granted by the CoARC."

C. If accreditation has been withdrawn (Voluntary or Involuntary Withdrawal), the sponsor must no longer refer to the program as being accredited.

D. Use of language relating to accreditation other than what is designated by the CoARC requires prior written permission from the CoARC.

E. Any communication source that provides information to the public regarding the program must accurately reflect current accreditation status. The failure of a program to do so is a violation of *Standards 5.01 and 5.02; DA5.1 and 5.2; E1 and E2.*

11.02 If a program holds Provisional Accreditation status, the program's sponsor must use the following language when referring to that status. The program website must state:

"The
[Program name]
[CoARC program number(s)]
[Degree(s) awarded]
[Campus location]
holds Provisional Accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (www.coarc.com).

This status signifies that a program with an Approval of Intent has demonstrated sufficient compliance with the Standards (through submission of an acceptable Provisional Accreditation Self Study Report (PSSR) and any other documentation required by the CoARC, as well as satisfactory completion of an initial on-site visit."

The Commission commends your team's commitment to continuous quality improvement in education, as demonstrated by your participation in programmatic accreditation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Thomas Smalling, PhD, RRT, RRT-SDS, RPFT, RPSGT, FAARC
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Robert Muster, PhD, Dean
Tanya Tavra, MHA, RRT, Program Director
Kevin O'Neil, MD, FACP, FCCP, Referee