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Application for Return to Industry professional leave:

A. Description of the project

Abstract:

My proposal is to enhance my clinical skills by spending six months functioning as a respiratory therapist in a multi-level acute care hospital. During this time, I will be working with adult, pediatric, and especially infant populations in the critical care setting.

Objectives:

1. To function effectively as a respiratory therapist in adult critical care.
 - a. Review, collect, and interpret patient data
 - b. Initiate, conduct, and modify prescribed therapeutic procedures
 - c. Select, correctly use, and troubleshoot respiratory equipment
2. To function effectively as a respiratory therapist in pediatric critical care.
 - a. Review, collect, and interpret patient data
 - b. Initiate, conduct, and modify prescribed therapeutic procedures
 - c. Select, correctly use, and troubleshoot respiratory equipment
 - d. Completion of the Perinatal / Pediatric Specialty examination administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC).
3. To function effectively as a respiratory therapist in neonatal (infant) critical care.
 - a. Review, collect, and interpret patient data
 - b. Initiate, conduct, and modify prescribed therapeutic procedures
 - c. Select, correctly use, and troubleshoot respiratory equipment
 - d. Completion of the Perinatal / Pediatric Specialty examination administered by the NBRC.

Plan and Timeline:

Starting in the fourth week of **September 2005**, I plan to return to the acute care hospital setting and work approximately 30 to 36 hours per week as a respiratory therapist for the duration of my professional leave. In addition to my scheduled work hours, I plan to spend approximately

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four to ten hours per week focusing on neonatal and pediatric respiratory care by independent study and journal review.

In the first week of **January 2006**, I will submit two copies of an interim report on my progress to the Professional Leave Committee.

I plan to complete the Perinatal / Pediatric Specialty examination by the last day of Winter quarter, **March 23rd 2006**, and return to my faculty position with the respiratory care program at Seattle Central Community College on **April 4th 2006**.

During **spring quarter 2006**, three copies of my professional leave report will be submitted to comply with the details specified in the Professional Leave Agreement.

Demonstration of achieved objectives:

Each of the following objectives 1a-c, 2a-c, and 3a-c will be evaluated through a combination of self-study and reflection, and employer survey or review. The Perinatal / Pediatric Specialty examination objective (2d, 3d) will be evaluated as successful or not successful by the NBRC.

Sources of additional financial support:

Hourly wage from employer. This proposal will be accomplished by a temporary work assignment through a respiratory care staffing company. The staffing company is not able to forecast what the area hospitals' needs are at this time. A letter of understanding stating location specifics and hourly wage, therefore, will not be possible until spring. I will keep the Professional Leave Program Committee informed as details become available.

B. 1. Explanation of how this proposal will benefit students, instructional program, college and community:

The respiratory care faculty is charged with the task of preparing knowledgeable and competent program graduates. Essential to our graduates' success is a firm understanding of both the modalities that make up the foundation of respiratory therapy, and the most recent technological advances in research and current techniques in the actual practice of respiratory care from neonatal to geriatric populations. While students have textbooks that address the relatively static basic concepts in respiratory care, the practice of respiratory critical care is continually evolving.

Program students will benefit by having an instructor who can provide the detail and rationale for the most current concepts in critical care across the age spectrum and who can describe and demonstrate the most current practice techniques used in acute care hospitals. Enhancing program students' understanding of the latest

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trends in the theory and practice of respiratory care will improve their critical care clinical performance, clinical experience, and ultimately help them to become a successful graduate respiratory therapist.

The respiratory care program and college may benefit from this proposal by reducing the (historically challenging) need to find a separate part-time classroom instructor to teach neonatal and pediatric theory. All of the other respiratory care core classes are taught by the program's two full-time faculty. In addition to insuring the consistency of theory instruction for the students, this proposal may result in a cost savings for the program and college.

2. Explanation of how this proposal will benefit professional and personal development potential for the instructor:

Through returning to industry I will be able to re-acquaint myself with the day-to-day functions and responsibilities of a practicing respiratory therapist. This includes: broadening and expanding my cognitive knowledge of current research and developments in respiratory care; improving and enhancing my technical skills in neonatal, pediatric, and adult critical care; and becoming familiar and proficient with the newest respiratory care equipment.

Returning to industry under this proposal will allow me to increase my understanding of neonatal and pediatric respiratory theory and practice. This will directly assist me to pass the Perinatal / Pediatric Specialty examination and earn the NPS credential from the National Board for Respiratory Care.

Overall, this opportunity will benefit me as an instructor by providing a greater sense of what, exactly, will be expected of my graduates and allow me the chance to learn, synthesize, and ultimately explain the "why's" and "how's" to my students in a way that hopefully will be meaningful.

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