

BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
FOR APPROVAL FOR:
ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY - ST LOUIS,
MISSOURI, SCHOOL OF NURSING; APRN
PROGRAM

CIVIL PENALTY

**CONSENT AGREEMENT
AND
ORDER NO. 220801US96510000**

APPLICANT

The Arizona State Board of Nursing (“Board”) and St. Louis University- St. Louis Missouri School of Nursing APRN Program, (“Applicant”) seek to resolve allegations that St. Louis University- St. Louis Missouri, School of Nursing APRN Program violated the Nurse Practice Act. In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of the above-captioned matter, consistent with the public interest, statutory requirements and the responsibilities of the Board, and pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1092.07 (F)(5), the undersigned parties enter into this Consent Agreement as a final disposition of this matter.

Based on the evidence before it, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Applicant applied for Board issued Distance Learning Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) approval nursing program approval on August 15, 2022.
2. Beginning in 2018, Applicant, St. Louis University- St. Louis Missouri, School of Nursing APRN Program, with a home state of Missouri, offered an Advanced Practice distance education program in Arizona for students without Arizona Board approval, or under any exemption, which is a violation of R4-19-503.

3. On August 4, 2022, Respondent, through its Clinical Resource Coordinator, inquired with the Board about the application process for distance learning Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) approval. In the application submitted on August 15, 2022, Respondent stated that their APRN program was not approved in their home state and that they had placed 3 students in Arizona starting in 2018. Respondent then reported that two additional students had been placed in Arizona for clinical studies since the application, for a total of five students. Based upon this information, the Board opened an investigation.

4. Beginning in September 2018, Respondent admitted 5 Arizona students in its APRN programs, with Arizona based clinical experiences, without having clinical faculty licensed in the state of Arizona. Faculty applied for APRN licensure in the state of Arizona beginning with their application submission in August of 2022. Dr Thanavaro, APRN Administrator was issued an APRN license in the state of Arizona on January 23, 2023; Specialty Lead for Family Shellie Hill was issued an APRN license in the state of Arizona on December 5, 2022; Specialty Lead for Family Psychiatric/Mental Health Christina Rariden was issued an APRN license in the state of Arizona on December 23, 2022; Specialty Lead for Adult/Gerontological Acute Care Geralyn Ochs was issued an APRN license in the state of Arizona on February 28, 2023 and Specialty Lead for Pediatric Primary Care Michelle Papachrisanthou was issued an RN license on November 17, 2022 and an APRN license in the state of Arizona on December 27, 2022.

5. On March 24, 2023, the Board considered Applicant's application for approval and voted as follows based on the information presented at this meeting, and information in the investigative report, upon meeting all approval requirements a \$5000 Civil Penalty, and paying the Civil Penalty, grant full approval of the following programs for St. Louis University 1. Family Nurse Practitioner; 2. Adult Gero Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (Acute Care and Primary Care); 3. Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and 4. Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, (currently

Family Psychiatric/Mental Health, (FPMHNP), provided within their Master of Science in Nursing and Post Graduate Certificate in Nursing. If payment is not received within 60 days, deny approval.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 32-1606, 32-1644, 32-1663 and 32-1664, the Board has subject matter and personal jurisdiction in this matter.

The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute violations of A.R.S. § 32-1663 (D) as defined in and currently cited as § 32-1601 (27) “Unprofessional conduct” includes the following whether occurring in this state or elsewhere: (d) Any conduct or practice that is or might be harmful or dangerous to the health of a patient or the public and (j) Violating a rule that is adopted by the Board pursuant to this chapter (effective August 9, 2017); and currently cited as A.R.S. § 32-1666. Unlawful acts - (B) It is unlawful for a person to operate a training or educational program to prepare students for licensure or certification under this chapter unless it has been approved under this chapter; and Arizona Administrative Code R4-19-504 Notice of Deficiency; Unprofessional Program Conduct (D) A disciplinary action, denial of approval, or notice of deficiency may be issued against an RNP or CNS nursing program for any of the following acts of unprofessional conduct: (9) Fraud or deceit in advertising, promoting or implementing a nursing program.

The conduct and circumstances described in the Findings of Fact constitute sufficient cause pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1664(O) to revoke, suspend or take other disciplinary action against Applicant’s program approval to conduct an advanced practice nursing program in the State of Arizona.

However, in lieu of a hearing, Applicant agrees to issuance of the following Order and waives all rights to a hearing, rehearing, appeal or judicial review relating to this matter. Applicant further waives any and all claims or causes of action, whether known or unknown, that Applicant

may have against the State of Arizona, the Board, its members, officers, employees and/or agents arising out of this matter.

Applicant admits to the Board's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

Applicant understands that the admissions in the Findings of Fact are conclusive evidence of a violation of the Nurse Practice Act and may be used for purposes of determining sanctions in any future disciplinary matter.

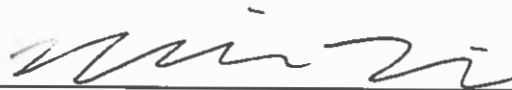
Applicant understands the right to consult legal counsel prior to entering into this Consent Agreement and such consultation has been either obtained or is waived.

Applicant understands that this Consent Agreement is effective upon its acceptance by the Board or its designee and by Applicant as evidenced by the respective signatures thereto. Applicant's signature obtained via facsimile shall have the same effect as an original signature. Once signed by Applicant, the Agreement cannot be withdrawn without the Board's approval or by stipulation between Applicant and the Board's designee. The effective date of this Order is the date the Consent Agreement is signed by Applicant and accepted by the Board or its designee.

Applicant acknowledges and agrees that the acceptance of this Consent Agreement is solely to settle this Board matter and does not preclude the Board from instituting other proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future.

Furthermore, and notwithstanding any language in this Consent Agreement, this Consent Agreement does not preclude in any way any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of this state from instituting proceedings, investigating claims, or taking legal action as may be appropriate now or in the future relating to this matter or other matters concerning Applicant, including but not limited to, violations of Arizona's Consumer Fraud Act. Applicant acknowledges that, other than with respect to the Board, this Consent Agreement makes no representations,

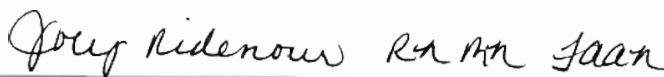
implied or otherwise, about the views or intended actions of any other state agency or officer or political subdivision of the state relating to this matter or other matters concerning Applicant.



Signature or Approved Applicant Representative
ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY - ST LOUIS, MISSOURI
SCHOOL OF NURSING APRN PROGRAM

Dated: 4/10/23

ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF NURSING



Joey Ridenour, R.N., M.N., F.A.A.N.
Executive Director

Dated: 4/12/2023



JR/SB/yp

ORDER

In view of the above the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and the consent of Applicant, the Board hereby issues the following Order:

- A. Applicant's consent to the terms and conditions of this Order and waiver of hearing is accepted.
- B. It is ordered that, upon meeting all approval requirements, acceptance by the Board of this agreement, and full and complete payment for the Civil Penalty received by the Board (see section C, below), the approval shall be granted.
- C. Applicant shall be assessed a Civil Penalty in the amount of Five Thousand dollars (\$5,000.00).

1) Applicant shall pay the Civil Penalty, in full, no later than 60 days from the effective date of this Order, via the Board's Online Payment System¹.

2) If Applicant fails to timely pay the Civil Penalty, in the manner stated in paragraph C.(1), above, Applicant's nursing program application shall be DENIED, and the Applicant may not reapply for approval for a period of two (2) years.

Applicant waives any and all rights to a hearing, rehearing or judicial review of any suspension or revocation imposed pursuant to this paragraph.

D. While this Order is in effect and/or Applicant's approval is subject to discipline, up to and including denial, Applicant is not eligible to renew any other expired approval previously held by Applicant without prior review and approval by the Board.

Board Date: March 24, 2023

ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Joey Ridenour, R.N., M.N., F.A.A.N.
Executive Director

Dated: Joey Ridenour R.N. M.N. FAAN

Acceptance Date: 4/12/2023

JR/sb/yp

Transmitted this 6th day of April, 2023, via Adobe Sign to:

E-mail: joanne.thanavaro@slu.edu

Joanne Thanavaro, DNP, RN, AGPCNP-BC, AGACNP-BC, DCC, FAANP
Associate Dean of Graduate Programs
St. Louis University – St. Louis, Missouri
APRN Nursing Program
3525 Caroline Street
Saint Louis, MO 63104

Also sent via US Certified Mail (7018 1830 0000 8472 9468) to:

¹ The Board's online payment system is available at <https://azbngateway.az.gov/>

E-mail: joanne.thanavaro@slu.edu
Joanne Thanavaro, DNP, RN, AGPCNP-BC, AGACNP-BC, DCC, FAANP
Associate Dean of Graduate Programs
St. Louis University – St. Louis, Missouri
APRN Nursing Program
3525 Caroline Street
Saint Louis, MO 63104

By: Yolanda Pickett, Administrative Assistant III

Fully Executed copy sent this 12th day of April, via Adobe Sign to:

E-mail: joanne.thanavaro@slu.edu

Joanne Thanavaro, DNP, RN, AGPCNP-BC, AGACNP-BC, DCC, FAANP

Associate Dean of Graduate Programs

St. Louis University – St. Louis, Missouri

APRN Nursing Program

3525 Caroline Street

Saint Louis, MO 63104

By: Yolanda Pickett, Administrative Assistant III