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Life in Discovery

For Immediate Release:

HLC approves University's continued Reaccreditation through 2018-2019

NORTH CHICAGO, IL – The Board of Trustees for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) approved the continued accreditation of Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science (RFUMS) on October 29, 2008.

The HLC announced that the next scheduled survey visit is expected in 2018-2019. It also stated that no interim reports or other visits are required.

This action follows the HLC survey site visit of April 21-23 in which a team of six peer evaluators interviewed faculty, staff and students and examined the Rosalind Franklin University Self-Study Report, a comprehensive 227-page document, including more than 160 pages of appendices.

The final team report noted the following significant developments of Rosalind Franklin University in recent years:

- The present Board of Trustees is composed of individuals with distinguished records of accomplishments and exceptional reputations
- The RFUMS planning initiative that began in July 2003 has had a major impact on the nature of the University
- RFUMS has developed and deployed a comprehensive system that supports continued effective strategic planning, including the 2007-2011 Strategic Plan that provides a roadmap for strategic management, decision making and budget administration
- RFUMS is using multiple approaches to embrace diversity
- There is an active student body participating in 80 student organizations
- Interviews with community members and clinical partners provide evidence that external partners are interested in more opportunity for collaboration with RFUMS
- There has been significant growth in facilities with the addition of the Health Sciences Building and three student housing complexes
- RFUMS has effectively conducted both programmatic and student learning assessments
- In the past five years, RFUMS made significant investments in the development of educational infrastructure, including the Learning Resource Center, the Education and Evaluation Center, the Sheinin Anatomy Laboratory, online learning management system and research laboratories
- RFUMS has a long history of exemplary community engagement through service learning projects

The Higher Learning Commission is authorized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit higher education institutions in nineteen Midwestern states. The HLC is a commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, located in Chicago, Illinois.

All colleges and universities are required to maintain accreditation to be eligible for federal student financial aid assistance and to maintain certification and licensure of their graduates.

“I am very pleased that Rosalind Franklin University has received continued HLC accreditation with the next expected survey visit not coming until 2018-2019. This is a review that clearly enhances our national stature,” said Dr. K. Michael Welch, President and CEO of Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. “I consider it to be an exemplary achievement completed by our outstanding faculty, staff and administrative members.”

The 2008 Rosalind Franklin University Self-Study Steering Committee included the following faculty, staff and students:

Marc Abel, PhD
Marjorie Ariano, PhD (primary editor)
Daniel Bareither, PhD
Diane Bridges, MSN, RN, CCM
James Carlson, MS, PA-C
Sarah Garber, PhD
Teri Franklin
Dana Frederick
Michael Kremer, DNSc, CRNA
Cathy Lazarus, MD
Joyce Lenz, BA
Judy Stoecker, PT, PhD
John Vitale, MHS
Tim Hansen, PhD (chair)

Student Members

David Charles
Maud Morshedi
Matt Sarasin

Particular recognition is given to Dr. Hansen and Dr. Ariano for their key leadership roles with this special project.

About Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science

Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science is a national leader in interprofessional medical and healthcare education, comprising the Chicago Medical School, College of Health Professions, Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine and School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Rosalind Franklin University recently received approval for its new doctoral program in Interprofessional Healthcare Studies – the first in Illinois – and has launched a new master in science program in Psychology Clinical Counseling in fall 2008.

There are more than 16,000 RFUMS degreed graduates in the United States and worldwide.