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Department of Nursing

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To the Selection Committee for the Certification Board for Diabetes Care and Education:

This letter provides my strongest support for Dr. Dana Brackney to serve on the Board of Directors of the Certification Board for Diabetes Care and Education Specialists. Dr. Brackney brings strong practice and education experience to the role of Board of Directors, as demonstrated by her commitment and dedication to diabetes education and care in her role as a practitioner, and in her role as an associate professor of Nursing at Appalachian State University. I have known Dr. Brackney since 2005, as a doctoral student focused on diabetes care and pursuing the PhD in Nursing Science at East Tennessee State University. Dr. Brackney completed a dissertation focused on the meaning of numeracy to patients learning to self-manage and understand their blood glucose levels. Over the past decade as a faculty member in the Department of Nursing at Appalachian State University, Dr. Brackney has developed a program of research grounded in her dissertation work, and achieved internal funding for collaborative projects with colleagues in nursing and exercise science that have addressed exercise and fertility for women with PCOS, and prevention in school aged students using an exercise intervention. Dr. Brackney consistently incorporates current diabetes knowledge and treatment approaches into all courses that she teaches in both undergraduate and graduate programs in Nursing. In addition, she led the development of a Diabetes Educator role within a wellness center with a regional clinical partner, and supported the efforts toward certification of the Center. She practices at the Center each week, and mentors and supports others in their education and efforts in diabetes care, and as diabetes educators. Of particular note is that Dr. Brackney has addressed in her research, teaching, and practice the unique needs of rural people in Western North Carolina for diabetes care and education from the perspectives of patients and health professions students.

Dr. Brackney has the requisite knowledge, skills, and experiences to fulfill the role of a member of the Board of Directors. Through her practice and educational experiences, she will be a strong contributor to the governance of the Board, and will fulfill all of the responsibilities of a Board of Directors member. As the Chair of the Department of Nursing, I will support the time needed for her to participate in meetings, activities, committee work, and other initiatives.

Dr. Brackney has the highest ethical standards, and fulfills all of her faculty and practice responsibilities fully, thoughtfully, and on time. She goes above and beyond in her commitment to students, and to her patients. She is a clear communicator, and will certainly support and enhance the image and the work of the CBDCE. She has my highest recommendation to serve as a Board of Directors member and I am confident she will represent the CBDCE well.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a recommendation for Dr. Brackney to serve on the CBDCE Board of Directors. Please feel free to contact me should you need further information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Rayman

Kathleen M. Rayman, PhD, RN