

# RVCC one step closer to accreditation; hires nursing chair

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**CLAREMONT** — River Valley Community College recently took another step toward regaining its accreditation status for its nursing program, after losing its status over the summer.

College President Alicia Harvey-Smith announced Thursday that the college is now at the candidacy status level with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, or ACEN, and moving toward full accreditation for its Associate Degree Nursing program. The college is due to submit a self-study to the ACEN in October as part of the process.

“We are delighted to report that River Valley will be accepting applications for Fall 2014 nursing classes in both Claremont and Keene,” Harvey-Smith said.

The college has hired Dr. Patricia Shinn as Professor and Nursing Department Chair. Shinn will be tasked with transitioning the program back to full approval status. Shinn received her B.S.N. from West Virginia Wesleyan College, a M.S. from [Russell Sage College](#) and a Ph.D. from Walden University. She comes to River Valley Community College from the State University of New York in Canton, N.Y. Prior to that she was Director of Nursing at Clinton Community College in Plattsburg, N.Y., and has many years of experience in nursing practice, nursing education and program accreditation.

“Looking closer at the nursing program at River Valley, I find that it has strong administrative support, good faculty and motivated students as evidenced by the May 2013 licensing exam (NCLEX) pass rate,” Shinn said. “River Valley nursing graduates achieved a higher percentage pass rate compared to the state and national rates. Our goal is to dedicate the resources necessary to continue the history of academic integrity and transition back to full approval status as soon as possible.”

Current RVCC Associate Degree Nursing students remain eligible to take examinations for state licensure, and any River Valley nursing graduate who chooses to pursue a bachelor of science and/or master’s degree in nursing remains able to do so.