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Enrolled 4/27/2011

My name is Edith Ndidi Ebirim, from Houston Texas and I am here today to testify on my personal and professional educational journey on the way to becoming a nurse. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all of the faculty and staff members at Excelsior College's School of Nursing, President James Baldwin, and dean Dr. Mary Lee Pollard. I heartily appreciate this great opportunity to voice why I selected Excelsior over a traditional college.

To achieve any goal in life, there will be obstacles; however, through perseverance and dedication you can overcome them. I was a former nursing student at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Unfortunately, due to the challenges facing me with work, school, and family, I made the life changing decision to drop out. The rigor of juggling four children and a demanding job was too much for me to cope. However, I knew that I was destined to become a nurse so I sought out alternatives. In searching for a school that will work around my busy schedule while providing the adequate assistance I needed on an educational level, I came across Excelsior College and realized it was the best choice for me.

Excelsior College's School of Nursing has given me the opportunity to live out my dreams. As a graduate nurse, my confidence in the nursing practice has been strengthened as I give care. Excelsior's curriculum includes online and telephone conferences, clinical sites, and simulation lab boot camps. They offer students the tools they need to succeed. In addition, Excelsior's curriculum offers instruction on every element of nursing care. For example, I worked at MD Anderson for years, where most nurses who attended traditional schools demonstrate insufficient knowledge on subjects that are the basics at Excelsior. These nurses were not educated on common practical skills like Vital Signs, but Excelsior has made it their mission to teach every aspect in nursing practice, and I am ever so grateful. As I now practice what I have been taught, I am confident in the level of knowledge and skill that I have acquired by attending a school that prioritizes providing students the education they will use on the professional field.

Honestly I feel exuberant that I studied at Excelsior College, which has made me trust and believe that anything is possible. The knowledge and skill that I have gained has prepared me to advance to a higher level of nursing. Although online schooling can be quite challenging, it is within anyone's reach if you are determined, especially with a school like Excelsior guiding you every step of the way.

Thanks to everyone here today for your time in listening to my testimony.