



165 Main Street, Suite 200
Phone: 267-932-8857

Harleysville, PA 19438
Fax: 267-293-1116

November 11, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support the Exercise Science and Sports Technology program at the Upper Bucks County Technical School.

I am a local employer who would benefit from the program and meet the needs and demands of the industry. In the Rehabilitation Sciences, we are looking for most cost-effective ways to meet the needs in particular of our growing numbers of older adults with chronic conditions. Bucks County has 19.2% of the population that are aged 65+ and growing. Some of the most prevalent chronic conditions that accounts for our high economic costs in healthcare are diabetes, arthritis, and obesity. To note, in Bucks County, 94% of the total population is overweight or obese, 28% have been diagnosed with arthritis, 13% have been diagnosed with diabetes, and 13% are characterized as fair or poor general health.¹ We also know that exercise, dietary changes, and addressing other social determinants of health will improve these numbers.

This is where the program at the Upper Bucks County Technical School Exercise Science will help meet the needs in preparing students for careers in sports medicine, healthcare, rehabilitation sciences, and other social and health related needs.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Fortier, DPT, MBA

¹ Informatics, D. of H. (n.d.). *Pennsylvania County Health Profiles*. Montgomery. Retrieved November 11, 2021, from <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/HealthStatistics/VitalStatistics/CountyHealthProfiles/Documents/current/Montgomery.aspx>.