

Meet Caroline Etland. . .

Caroline Etland is a PhD student at the University of San Diego. Her health area of focus is end-of-life care—an increasing cultural and health concern. For Caroline the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) was a major factor in her ability to pursue her PhD. Since those with a life-limiting illness can be considered a vulnerable population with limited ability to advocate for themselves effectively, nurses fulfill a tremendously supportive role for patients and families. Advanced knowledge of a clinical specialty and the research process also prepares Caroline to provide guidance in ethical challenges regarding divergent perspectives in care.



“I would not financially be able to complete my research or have the ability to mentor other nurses and healthcare professionals in the research process if not for the NFLP.”

About the Program

- The Title VIII Nursing Education grants provide a federal focus to the supply and distribution of qualified nurses.
- The Title VIII Nurse Faculty Loan Program increases the number of qualified nursing faculty by creating a student loan fund within individual schools of nursing.
- Students who receive the funding must agree to teach at a school of nursing in exchange for cancellation of up to 85% of their educational loans, plus interest, over a four-year period.
- The NFLP is awarded to full-time students to ensure that they finish their education without delay. Once they complete their advanced degree they are able to teach the next generation of nurses, which in turn alleviates the nursing shortage.
- In FY 2008, these grants supported the education of 729 future nurse educators.

The Effect of Funding Cuts. . .

- Our country is facing a critical shortage of nurse faculty which inhibits the ability to educate more nurses.
- According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s (AACN) 2007-2008 annual survey, schools of nursing turned away 40,285 qualified applicants to baccalaureate and graduate programs primarily due to insufficient numbers of faculty. It is imperative that nurses pursuing their graduate degrees be supported so that the crippling national nursing shortage can be reversed.
- Without adequate Title VIII funding for the NFLP, nurses pursuing the advanced education necessary to become professors will face greater barriers in completing their degrees on time. Cutting funding for the NFLP would unfortunately result in fewer nurse faculty entering the already sparse workforce.



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