

Meet Erik V. Carter. . .

Erik Carter is a graduate student at the University of California- San Francisco and a recipient of funding from the Nurse Loan Repayment and Scholarship program. He plans on becoming a professor of nursing, in part because throughout his nursing education and professional growth as a nurse he has never encountered another African American male, neither student nor faculty. In the hospital setting, ethnic and cultural diversity is expanding within the patient population, as well as in nursing staff that provide care. The pools of ethnicity are growing in nursing programs, and Erik recognizes an opportunity for nurse educators to emulate the populations they represent. Federal financial aid, such as the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, was essential to helping Erik attain this goal.



“There seems to be a drastic need for increased ethnic representation in nursing academia. Students need mentors with whom they can identify, so they can have a role model and visualize themselves in their mentor’s position.”

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 Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs provide support to both current students and recent graduates.
- The Nurse Loan Repayment program repays up to 85% of nursing student loans in return for at least three years of practice in a designated health care facility with a shortage of Registered Nurses (RNs). In 2008, 5,875 applications were reviewed, but only 435 students (or 7% of total applicants) were supported.
- The Scholarship program offers individuals who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment as full-time nursing students the opportunity to apply for scholarship funds. Upon graduation, nurses are required to work in a health care facility with a critical shortage of RNs for at least two years. In 2008, 169 students were supported.

The Effect of Funding Cuts. . .

- Our country has a critical shortage of nurses that is expected to intensify in the coming years. For many underserved health-care facilities, this shortage is especially acute.
- Without Title VIII funding for this program, health-care facilities in areas of national need will face reduced access to America’s brightest nurses.
- Attention must be paid to ensure that the nursing workforce is equally distributed to meet the needs of the geographic areas hit hardest by the nursing shortage. The Nurse Loan Repayment and Scholarship program in Title VIII helps to address this issue.



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