Title VIII Nursing Profile of Success  
California

Meet Caroline Etland, PhD, NP...

Caroline Etland completed her PhD at the University of San Diego with a focus on 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. Today, Caroline is faculty member in the Clinical Nurse Specialists program at the University of San Diego. She is also the Director of Education, Research and Professional Practice at Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center.

“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 Workforce Development programs provide a federal focus to the supply and distribution of qualified registered nurses.

- The Title VIII Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) increases the number of graduate-prepared nursing faculty by creating a loan-forgiveness 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. This helps to meet the growing demand for nurses.

- In FY 2011, these grants supported the education of 2,246 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) 2011-2012 annual survey on graduations and enrollment, schools of nursing turned away 79,659 qualified applications to baccalaureate and graduate programs citing faculty vacancy as a primary reason. It is imperative that nurses pursuing their graduate degrees be supported so that they can bolster the nursing pipeline by educating future generations of nurses.

- 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 result in fewer nurse faculty entering the workforce.

For more information, contact: Association of American Medical Colleges, Government Relations  
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