Meet Suzanne Foley, PhD, RN...

Suzanne Foley is a clinical faculty member at Villanova University and an assistant professor of nursing at Widener University. Without funding from the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP), Suzanne would have needed to work while pursuing her PhD degree. Fortunately for her, with the funding she received from NFLP, she has been able to pursue her education full time, cutting down on the amount of years it took her to reach her ultimate goal of contributing to the field of nursing as a professor. In addition, not being able to devote herself full time to her education without this funding, Suzanne would likely not have been able to afford to attain the advanced level of education required to become nurse faculty without the federal funding provided to her through the NFLP.

“I shudder to think how our healthcare system will operate in the future if the projected nursing and nurse faculty shortage is not rectified.”

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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