

Meet Deborah Karsnitz...

Deborah Karsnitz completed her Doctorate of Nursing Practice at the University of Kentucky in three years because of the support she received from the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP). As an educator and Certified Nurse Midwife, she teaches advanced practice students and found pursuing her terminal degree crucial to these efforts. After completing all of her coursework at the University of Kentucky, the NFLP allowed Deborah to decrease her workload and focus on her postpartum depression research. While undertaking her doctoral work she felt she was able to be a model for students considering terminal degrees as well as a mentor for students and colleagues interested in postpartum depression or doctoral studies.



“I am very thankful for the opportunity to receive this funding and believe that more students will consider faculty roles in nursing if funding is available to help redirect the costs of their education.”

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.

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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