

Meet Amy Davis . . .

After getting her BSN and working for 5 years as a hematology and oncology nurse, Amy Davis's life changed with the birth of her triplet sons. While they were in the NICU, she got to observe the work that the nurses there were doing, and realized that her real dream would be to become a NICU nurse. After getting a job in a Level III NICU, Amy recognized that her true potential could be realized if she got her license as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP), but being a single mother to triplets did not provide her with much time to pursue her education while maintaining a job and caring for her boys. After researching programs, Amy discovered that the NNP program at the nearby University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), which had created an NNP program with a Title VIII Advanced Education workforce grant, offered an online option to their masters program. The online program allowed Amy the flexibility to do her online coursework on her own schedule, while getting her clinical experience at the NICU she was already working at. Amy has excelled in her online NNP program. A case study she presented was selected as Case of the Year at the 2008 Neonatal Advanced Practice Nursing Forum. When she completes her licensing, Amy will work as an NNP for Pediatrix Medical Group.



“As a single mother of six year old triplets, I would not have been able to return to school if the NNP program had not been offered online.”

About the Program

- The Title VIII Nursing Education grants provide a federal focus to the supply and distribution of qualified nurses.
- In 1998, UMKC used a three year Title VIII workforce grant to create the NNP program. The program is available in traditional classes or online. Including the online component allowed them to extend the reach of their workforce grant to students at UMKC, UM-Saint Louis, South Dakota State University, and the University of Iowa.
- All students participating in the online program must attend two group sessions at UMKC, to give presentations, attend lectures, and participate in a skills and procedures lab with the eight experienced NNPs who serve as faculty for the program.
- More information about the UMKC NNP program can be found at: <http://nursing.umkc.edu/msn-nnp.cfm>

The Effect of Funding Cuts. . .

- Without Title VIII funding for this program, UMKC would be forced to drastically reduce the number of students admitted into their NNP program, and possibly have to eliminate their online program altogether. This unfortunately would result in fewer NNPs entering the already sparse workforce.
- Our country has a critical shortage of nurses, including advanced education nurses, such as NNPs. A large problem for the nursing community is the lack of qualified and trained practitioners to serve as faculty for nursing programs. By putting their program online, UMKC has allowed students who otherwise would not have access to such a program without uprooting their lives to another city or state the opportunity to complete coursework in this crucial field.



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