

Meet Ashley Krohn, PA-C, MPAS . . .

Even as a child, Ashley Krohn knew she wanted to work in the medical field. She grew up in a small Nebraska town, and through her training, she often worked in towns much like the one she was raised in. It was this training that reinforced in her the desire to provide care to people in rural towns. Ashley got her Master's in Physician Assistant Studies from Union College, which uses funding from Title VII to serve rural underserved areas and provides community health outreach to high-risk populations. She also got to work in a health clinic for the homeless every 3 weeks, and had 2 semesters of training in cultural competency. Ashley's training allowed her to work with patients in all stages of life, which helped steer her towards a career in Family Medicine. Ashley works for Heartland Family Medicine, which runs two clinics in rural Nebraska, and has a medical staff of one doctor and two physician assistants (PAs). Without this practice, and people like Ashley to staff it, many rural communities would not have local access to healthcare.



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“Serving the underserved has made me realize how important our job as PAs actually is. Without our teamwork and practice as a whole, many people would not have access to local healthcare.”

About the Program

- Physician Assistant Training in Primary Care grants are authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. They function as part of a cluster of Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry grants which aim to expand the primary care provider workforce.
- The Union College PA program gives students the opportunity to spend portions of their PA training working with underserved rural populations, and homeless and high-risk populations.
- The program also used Title VII funding to support minority recruitment and training in cultural competency.
- For more information about the Union College PA program, go to: www.ucollege.edu/pa

The Effect of Funding Cuts . . .

- As a result of funding cuts, the Union College PA program has been forced to cut back on staff, resulting in a severe reduction in minority recruiting efforts.
- The funding cuts have also resulted in the reduction of planned research and evaluation measures for the program.
- In FY 2007, the Union College PA program planned to implement new outreach programs, one to a homeless organization that supports victims of domestic abuse, and another for a pregnancy crisis center. Due to the elimination of their funding, these programs were not realized.
- Without the programs established with Title VII grants, PA students at Union College would not receive the varied educational opportunities they are now receiving. In addition, there would be less outreach for communities in need.



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