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

- The Title VIII AEN Traineeships assist graduate students by providing full or partial support for the costs of tuition, books, program fees, and reasonable living expenses.

- These grants help fund the education of future nurse practitioners who provide primary care to thousands of Americans, and also support the education of future nurse faculty who will prepare the next generation of nurses.

- In FY 2011, AEN funding supported the graduate education of 12,466 nurses.

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.