

July 8, 2010

Ed Rider, Methodist Health System
(402) 354-6813
ed.rider@nmhs.org

Vernell P. DeWitty, PhD, RN
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
202-463-6930, ext. 224
vdewitty@aacn.nche.edu

For Immediate Release

Nebraska Methodist College-The Josie Harper Campus Awarded Seven Scholarships through the RWJF New Careers in Nursing Program

Scholarships funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and American Association of Colleges of Nursing

Omaha, Nebraska, –Nebraska Methodist College-The Josie Harper Campus (NMC) announced today that it is one of 63 schools that will receive funding to award seven scholarships from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) through the *RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program (NCIN)*. Grants provided through this competitive program will be given to students traditionally underrepresented in the field of nursing and strives to prepare culturally competent leaders in the Nebraska Methodist College accelerated baccalaureate nursing program. NCIN was launched in 2008 to address the national nursing shortage and fuel the pipeline of diverse nurse faculty.

"Through the NCIN program, we are challenging the nation's nursing schools to be innovative and resourceful in how they grow their nursing programs, diversify student populations and contribute to the nursing leadership of tomorrow," said Denise A. Davis, Dr. P.H, RWJF program officer for NCIN. "We are very pleased to support this unique approach, particularly at a time when growing numbers of Americans are gaining insurance and entering our health care system."

At NMC, seven scholarships in the amount of \$10,000 each will be awarded to seven students entering accelerated nursing programs during the 2010-2011 academic year. To date, the NCIN program has supported 1,917 students at 101 schools of nursing, and continues to develop culturally competent health professionals and future leaders of the profession.

"The receipt of the NCIN grant monies for the Nebraska Methodist College (NMC) accelerated baccalaureate nursing program (ACE) is a benefit to both our students and the profession of nursing," said Dr. Marilyn Valerio, Associate Dean Nursing. "The challenges for accelerated students are often costs as well as the fast, demanding pace. These scholarships allow us to offer significantly more educational and financial support to a broader array of students from diverse and underrepresented groups. Our graduates from the ACE program are actively recruited by employers and over 60% state the intent to pursue higher degrees in nursing. These scholarships provide another avenue to meet NMC's mission to contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community, while addressing the need to diversify and prepare a highly educated nursing workforce."

-more-

The NCIN program was created through RWJF and AACN to enable schools of nursing to expand student capacity in accelerated baccalaureate and master's programs, and build a more diverse workforce ready to serve the needs of a changing patient population. Schools receiving grants through NCIN provide scholarships directly to students from groups underrepresented in nursing or from disadvantaged backgrounds. In its second year, 58 percent of scholarships went to students from diverse racial and ethnic groups and 37 percent went to male nursing students. Men currently account for only 6.6 percent of the national nursing population.

In the 2010 - 2011 academic year, 397 students in accelerated baccalaureate programs and 114 students in accelerated master's programs will receive scholarship funding. A complete list of schools receiving the NCIN scholarships is included below.

Arkansas State University	Samuel Merritt University
Azusa Pacific University, San Diego	Shenandoah University
Bellarmino University	Simmons College
Belmont University	Southern Connecticut State University
Boston College	SUNY Buffalo
California State University, Fullerton	SUNY Research Foundation (downstate)
College of St. Scholastica	SUNY Stony Brook
CUNY, Lehman College	Texas Tech University
DePaul University	Thomas Jefferson University
Drexel University	University of Alabama at Birmingham
Duke University	University of California, Los Angeles
East Tennessee State University	University of Hawaii, Manoa
Fairfield University	University of Maryland, Baltimore
Fairleigh Dickinson University	University of Medicine and Dentistry NJ
Felician College	University of Mississippi
Jacksonville University	University of Missouri, Columbia
Johns Hopkins University	University of Missouri, St. Louis
Kent State University	University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
Medical College of Georgia	University of Pennsylvania
Medical University of South Carolina	University of Pittsburgh
MGH Institute of Health Professions	University of Rochester
MidAmerica Nazarene University	University of South Alabama
Mount St. Mary's College	University of South Florida
Nebraska Methodist College	University of Tennessee Health Science Ctr
Norfolk State University	University of Texas at El Paso
Northern Arizona University	University of Virginia
Pace University	University of Wyoming
Quinnipiac University	Ursuline College
Rush University	Wayne State University
Saint Louis University	West Virginia University
Salisbury University	Winston-Salem State University
Samford University	

The NCIN program addresses a number of the challenges confronting nursing education, professional development, and the national workforce shortage. Accelerated programs like the ones supported by NCIN provide scholars with the most efficient route to licensure as a registered nurse (RN) and create opportunities for adults who have already completed a baccalaureate or graduate degree in a field other than nursing. These programs prepare students to pass the licensure examine required for all RNs in as little as 12-18 months and provide quicker routes to workforce eligibility than traditional programs.

By bringing more nurses into the profession at the baccalaureate and master's degree levels, the NCIN program also helps to address the nation's nurse faculty shortage. Data from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration show that nurses entering the profession via baccalaureate programs are four times more likely than other nurses to pursue a graduate degree in nursing. This trend is reflected in the NCIN scholars, as 95% of the students receiving funding in the first two years of the program indicate a desire to advance their education to the master's and doctoral levels.

Finally, the *RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program* is clearly having a positive effect on the nation's nursing schools. Many programs that received awards have used the NCIN funding to help leverage additional resources to add new faculty, secure matching funding from state programs, develop mentoring and leadership development programs, strengthen outreach efforts, and establish new partnerships with community and practice leaders. These efforts will enable schools to sustain their program expansion while positioning them for growth.

###

*The **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful, and timely change. For more than 35 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. Helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in our lifetime. www.rwjf.org*

*The **American Association of Colleges of Nursing** (AACN) is the national voice for university and four-year college education programs in nursing. Representing more than 640 member schools of nursing at public and private institutions nationwide, AACN's educational, research, governmental advocacy, data collection, publications, and other programs work to establish quality standards for bachelor's- and graduate-degree nursing education, assist deans and directors to implement those standards, influence the nursing profession to improve health care, and promote public support of baccalaureate and graduate nursing education, research, and practice. www.aacn.nche.edu*