



NEWS RELEASE

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NURSING SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS TO BE HONORED

FRESNO—The Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF) announced today that it will host an awards luncheon at the La Ryan Event Center in Fresno on January 14, 2005, in honor of Central Valley Nursing Scholarship Program awardees. The theme of the luncheon is “Cultivating Future Nursing Leadership.”

Ninety-three registered nursing students will be recognized for outstanding commitment and leadership in nursing. The nursing students won scholarships ranging from \$8,000 for associate nursing degrees, \$10,000 for Bachelor of Science of nursing and \$12,000 for Master of Science of nursing. Scholarship awards totaled \$749,000. After completing their nursing education programs, awardees will practice their professions in the Central Valley’s medically underserved areas.

The Central Valley Nursing Scholarship Program, which targets Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced and Tulare counties, is designed to increase diversity in the Central Valley’s nursing workforce. The program emphasizes leadership and affords its scholars the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills through various assignments with hospitals, clinics and community-based organizations.

The program is funded through The California Endowment’s \$10 million Central Valley Nursing Workforce Diversity Initiative and is administered by HPEF.

HPEF is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit, public benefit corporation administered through the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. HPEF was established to provide scholarships and loan repayment grants to health professional students. HPEF’s mission is to improve access to healthcare in rural and urban underserved areas.

Since 1990, HPEF has awarded more than \$11 million in scholarships and loan repayment grants to approximately 1,700 health professional students and graduates.

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