

New SDAP Students to Benefit from Innovative Scholarship Program Funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant

The prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has awarded \$160,000 in scholarship funds to MCCN through its New Careers in Nursing Scholarship program. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and healthcare of all Americans.

The grant is divided into sixteen \$10,000 scholarships to increase enrollment and recruit underrepresented students into MCCN's Second Degree Accelerated Program (SDAP). The SDAP is a fast-track program providing talented graduates from other disciplines the opportunity to enter the nursing profession by earning a bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) in just 13 months.

Although enrollment in accelerated programs has steadily increased, many potential students cannot enroll since their college degree disqualifies them from most federal financial aid for entry-level students. The New Careers in Nursing scholarships address this problem, and the overall nursing shortage, by enabling hundreds of students to launch their nursing careers through accelerated education.

RWJF funds scholarships for students seeking accelerated nursing degrees as the most efficient way to increase the number of new nurses, while also increasing diversity in the nursing profession by providing scholarships to students from underrepresented groups in nursing or disadvantaged backgrounds.

The RWJF grant provides MCCN the continued opportunity to recruit and enroll students from groups underrepresented in nursing due to ethnicity, culture and gender; examples include African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans, Alaskans, and men.

The program also benefits qualified applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds without the personal financial resources to pursue a second bachelor's degree in nursing. Individuals who have lost jobs and savings in the economic downturn are searching for second careers, and nursing represents a unique opportunity to enter one of the fastest growing, highest-opportunity career fields available today. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds include those who have incomes below the poverty level, who have difficulty securing educational loans, who live in designated counties in Ohio, and who are first generation college students.

MCCN's SDAP is open to men and women who can attend college full time, have earned a baccalaureate degree with a cumulative minimum 3.0 GPA (grade point average), and meet other admission criteria.

The same classroom and clinical nursing classes offered in MCCN's traditional, four-year BSN program are included in the SDAP, in a compressed time frame. Tuition is \$25,500 over the 13-month period. The RWJF grant will help students who qualify to offset this cost. Award preference is given to students from groups underrepresented in nursing or from disadvantaged backgrounds.

If you or someone you know could benefit from MCCN's Second Degree Accelerated Program, visit www.mccn.edu or call 614-234-5800.