



For Immediate Release

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Date: July 27, 2015

NHA Research and Educational Foundation awards health care career scholarships

LINCOLN — The Nebraska Hospital Association Research and Educational Foundation (NHAREF) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2015 Graduate Studies Tuition Aid Program and the Undergraduate Health Care Career Scholarship Program.

In an effort to help address the ongoing health care professional shortage, the NHAREF is assisting future industry leaders in their efforts to pursue a degree in health care or further their education through two scholarship programs — the Graduate Studies Tuition Aid Program established in 1987 and the Undergraduate Health Care Career Scholarship Program established in 2002. In addition to addressing the ongoing shortage of health care professionals, the scholarship programs also encourage young Nebraskans to remain in the state as they establish their careers.

“These scholarship award winners have demonstrated a great commitment to health care and we support their efforts to continue learning and expanding their roles in helping shape the future of health care in our state,” Nebraska Hospital Association President Laura J. Redoutey said. “The NHAREF scholarship programs are helping talented people achieve their health care career aspirations while simultaneously helping to build Nebraska’s pool of health care professionals and leaders.”

“The NHAREF is pleased to offer scholarship awards to passionate individuals who want to make a difference in health care,” stated Jon Borton, Nebraska Hospital Association vice president, educational services. “To date, we have awarded more than \$525,000 in scholarships to support higher education in health care careers.”

Nebraska’s hospitals are proud to support these outstanding students who will keep our quality of care among the best in the nation.

(More)

Recipients of the 2015 Graduate Studies Tuition Aid Program include:

- Kimberly Bland, Nebraska Methodist Hospital, Omaha, is pursuing her doctorate of nursing practice at Nebraska Methodist College.
- Nicholle Bruhn, Methodist Women's Hospital, Omaha, is studying at the University of Nebraska Medical Center to become a pediatric nurse practitioner.
- Adam Diediker, Avera St. Anthony's Hospital, O'Neill, is pursuing a master of science in nursing, family nurse practitioner degree from Walden University.
- Kristina Ellstrom, Box Butte General Hospital, Alliance, is working toward a degree in integrated media communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- Heidi Farnum, CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center, Omaha, is earning a degree as a doctor of nurse anesthesia at the Bryan College of Health Sciences.
- Leah Frye, Chadron Community Hospital, Chadron, is studying to become a doctor of pharmacy at the Creighton University School of Pharmacy.
- Sandra Kirchner, Bryan Medical Center, Lincoln, is studying to become a nurse practitioner, gerontology, at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.
- Wendy Shifflet, Tri Valley Health Systems, Cambridge, is pursuing a master's degree in social work from Walden University.

Recipients of the 2015 Undergraduate Health Care Career Scholarship include:

- Maureen Allison, CHI Health Nebraska Heart, Lincoln, is pursuing a bachelor of science in nursing at Doane College.
- Angela Barber, Beatrice Community Hospital, Beatrice, is pursuing a bachelor of science in nursing at Doane College.
- Victoria Crook, Kearney Regional Medical Center, Kearney, is studying supply chain management at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.
- Ishah Dominguez, Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Omaha, is attending Nebraska Methodist College to study multispecialty sonography.
- Brenton Karsten, CHI Health Good Samaritan, is pursuing a bachelor of science in nursing at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.
- Jane Ledesma, CHI Health Schuyler, Schuyler, is studying biology at Midland University.
- Traci Linders, Gordon Memorial Health Services, Gordon, is studying at Hibbing Community College, to become a medical lab tech.
- Cassandra Navarrete, Columbus Community Hospital, Columbus, is pursuing a bachelor of science in nursing at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.
- Emily Thompson, Great Plains Health, North Platte, is pursuing a nursing degree at the Bryan College of Health Sciences.
- Shelby Wobken, Providence Medical Center, Wayne, is studying chemistry health science, pre-pharmacy at Wayne State College.

For more information about health care career scholarship programs, please visit the Nebraska Hospital Association website at www.NebraskaHospitals.org/education/scholarships.html.

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The Nebraska Hospital Association is the unified voice for Nebraska's hospitals and health systems. The association offers collaborative leadership, assisting its members to provide comprehensive care to their communities, improving the health status of those communities. For more information, please visit the NHA website at www.NebraskaHospitals.org.