



TIDE TO SUCCESS

HRSA GRANT PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS TO HELP WORKING
NURSES PURSUE ADVANCED DEGREES

In 2016, The University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing (CCN) was awarded \$2.4 million in funding by the Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) for a program designated as Scholarships for

Disadvantaged Students (SDS Program). HRSA, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agency, seeks to improve health and achieve health equity through access to quality services, a skilled health workforce and innovative programs. It's

Previous page: Dr. Alice L. March with scholarship receipt, Krista Klemm.

SDS Program encourages health care providers to deliver services in communities where people lack access for basic health care needs.

CCN has dubbed its SDS Program “BAMA Tide to Success for MSN Students.” Scholarship money from it is intended to support eligible master’s level nursing students during completion of the degree, enabling them to provide primary care to rural and underserved populations.

“In a state like Alabama, where almost all of our counties are federally designated as underserved, the HRSA SDS program funding increases the number and diversity of primary care providers, and is instrumental in training new care providers who are invested in staying in the areas where they are trained,” said Dr. Alice L. March, CCN assistant dean for graduate programs.

CCN’s goals for program outcomes are to increase enrollment of disadvantaged and minority students, increase retention rates for those students, and, ultimately, prepare about 70 primary care nurses for positions in medically underserved and rural communities.

The BAMA Tide to Success funding is available in \$600,000 increments each academic year. In the first year of funding, CCN was able to provide money to cover tuition and reasonable education expenses for 29 MSN students in need. “We are fortunate to be able to offer this benefit to graduate students. The money and support systems provided in the grant allow working nurses to pursue advanced degrees while experiencing less financial stress”, March said.

In the fall of 2017, we will continue to disburse monies to cover scholarship recipients who remain in our program, as well as seeking new awardees. We invite interested students to contact Vickie Samuel, our Graduate Recruitment and Retention Liaison, at vsamuel@ua.edu for information and an application. Applicable concentrations at CCN include the nurse practitioner and case management programs of study.

To qualify for this graduate scholarship, students must be from an underrepresented group including men in nursing, minority racial or ethnic groups, or from disadvantaged backgrounds either now or in the past. This means that persons who attended a high school with a high rate of free/reduced lunches or had a low graduation rate may qualify. Some amount of financial need should be demonstrated on the FAFSA form, which is required for consideration. 

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