



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **STATE ANNOUNCES INCENTIVES TO COMBAT NURSING SHORTAGE**

SACRAMENTO – The Health Professions Education Foundation (HPEF) today announced more than \$1 million in scholarship and loan repayment awards to 116 nurses and other health professionals to improve access to health care in rural and urban underserved areas.

“These awards reflect the Schwarzenegger Administration’s continued commitment to addressing California’s nursing shortage through public and private sector partnerships,” said HPEF Executive Director Angela Smith. “The awards will also ensure access to care in medically underserved areas.”

HPEF’s Pre-Nursing Scholarship, Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship and Bachelor of Science Nursing Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs awarded \$598,630 to 70 recipients statewide. These programs are funded by the Registered Nurse Education Fund through a \$10 surcharge for the renewal of the Registered Nurse license.

The Allied Healthcare Scholarship Program awarded \$16,000 to seven recipients statewide. This program is funded by a contribution from Kaiser Permanente.

The Health Professions Education Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs awarded \$453,556 to 39 recipients statewide. These programs are funded by grants from The California Wellness Foundation and the Vitamin Cases Consumer Settlement Fund.

HPEF was established in 1987 as a nonprofit, public benefit corporation administered through the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. HPEF supports the development of health professionals from underserved communities and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. In its mission to improve health care in underserved areas of California, HPEF administers scholarship and loan repayment programs to support health professional students and graduates agreeing to provide direct patient care in medically underserved areas upon completion of their education.

Since 1990, HPEF has awarded more than \$11.5 million in scholarships and loan repayments to assist more than 1,700 students and graduates fulfill their dream of pursuing a career in the health profession while caring for underserved populations.

For more information about HPEF scholarship and loan repayment programs, please contact HPEF at (800) 773-1669 or (916) 324-6500.

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