

Who Will Care?

Investing in a Comprehensive Solution to the Nurse Shortage

News Release

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Who Will Care? Initiative Helps Six Additional Nursing Schools

23 Maryland Nursing Schools Now Working to Double Maryland Nurse Graduates

Six additional Maryland nursing schools today were awarded grant money raised by the *Who Will Care?* Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to increase the number of nurse graduates in Maryland by 1,500, thereby helping alleviate a statewide shortage of nurse professionals.

The six schools that will receive the second round of grants include: Baltimore City Community College, Cecil College, Harford Community College, Morgan State University, Salisbury University, and the University of Maryland School of Nursing. The grants will be used to fund special projects in schools to add faculty, students, and clinical technology.

The latest awards bring to 23 the total number of nursing schools receiving the *Who Will Care?* grants from the Maryland Healthcare Education Institute, an affiliate of The Maryland Hospital Association. Together, participating schools will increase the number of graduating nurses by an additional 395 and add 27 faculty positions to the state's nursing schools.

"Today's action is our next step toward ensuring enough nurses to meet Maryland's health care needs," said Maryland Hospital Association President and CEO Carmela Coyle. "Less than two years ago we predicted a shortage of 10,000 nurses in Maryland by 2016 . . . Today we are thrilled to announce real progress and our continued commitment to reaching our goal of doubling the number of nurse graduates in Maryland."

The *Who Will Care?* campaign, begun in November 2007 to double the number of nurses educated in Maryland, has attracted broad-based support from hospital, insurance, business, and academic leaders, nurses, long-term care providers, and concerned private citizens. The campaign seeks to raise \$20 million in private funds and another \$40 million from state and federal sources. The grants announced today are made from funds raised to date.

“Maryland’s nursing schools have had to turn away qualified applicants because there are simply not enough faculty available to handle additional numbers of students,” said Mark Rulle, President of the Maryland Healthcare Education Institute. “The number of nurses graduating in Maryland is not keeping pace with the nurses we will need in the next 10 years and schools are turning away qualified applicants due to limited resources—*Who Will Care?* grants provide funds to spur expansion by hiring faculty, implementing new technology based curricula, and by accelerating student progress toward graduation.”

Those interested in contributing to the campaign can go to www.whowillcare.org or contact Ellen Stanley at estanley@mhaonline.org for more information.

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Who Will Care? is an initiative, established by a group of stakeholders, including the Maryland Hospital Association and health care and academic leaders, to double the number of nurse graduates in Maryland. The campaign aims to raise \$60 million from public and private sources to graduate an additional 1,500 registered nurses per year. For more information, visit www.whowillcare.org.