



**HEALTH PROFESSIONS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Giving Golden Opportunities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OSHPD LAUNCHES VOCATIONAL NURSE SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

Sacramento – The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) today announced the Health Professions Education Foundation’s (HPEF) inaugural award cycle for the Vocational Nurse Education Program (VNEP). The program will offer approximately \$195,000 in scholarships and loan repayment grants to Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) and Vocational Nurse (VN) students who agree to practice in medically underserved areas throughout California.

“OSHPD is pleased to be able to offer this funding to both VN students and LVNs and assist in addressing the shortage of LVNs in California,” said OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle. “LVNs are a critical component in the healthcare workforce and this funding will help recruit LVN’s into the most underserved areas of the state.”

Scholarships and loan repayments are available to students pursuing their VN education, recently licensed LVNs, and LVNs pursuing their Associate Degree in Nursing. Scholarships range from \$4,000 - \$8,000 a year, and loan repayment grants are up to \$6,000 over a two-year period. Application forms and program brochures can be downloaded from HPEF’s Web site at www.healthprofessions.ca.gov. The application postmark deadline is March 24, 2007.

HPEF, with a mission to improve healthcare access in underserved areas of California, is a nonprofit public benefit corporation which receives administrative support from OSHPD. It was established for the purpose of soliciting funds from the private sector and providing scholarships and loan repayment to demographically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students.

Since 1990, HPEF has awarded scholarships and loan repayments totaling more than \$14 million. These awards have assisted over 2,000 students and graduates to fulfill their dream of pursuing a career in the health professions and caring for underserved populations.

For further information about the HPEF, please contact the Foundation at (916) 324-6500 or (800) 773-1669.

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