

GRAB

Health care scholarships available

The health services industry is projected to grow twice as fast as the national economy. The demand for services is so great that there is a shortage of health care providers in some communities. This shortage translates into opportunity for students and professionals willing to work where they are needed most.

The Department of Health and Human Services offers two scholarships nationwide for health care students who commit to working in medically underserved areas. The National Health Service Corps Scholarship is available to students studying to be physicians, physician assistants, dentists, dental hygienists, nurse practitioners, or nurse-midwives. In exchange for each year of tuition, fees, and monthly stipends they receive in school, program graduates work in a medically underserved area for 1 year. After 2 years of service, the Service Corps will repay previously incurred school debt.

A similar program for nursing students is also available. The Undergraduate Education of Professional Nurses Grant Program provides tuition, fees, and a stipend to nursing students pursuing associate, diploma, or bachelor credentials. Upon graduation, these students work in medically underserved areas for at least 1 year.

For more information about these and other Federal scholarships, call the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, (301) 443-4776.

On a local level, Area Health Education Centers offer health care students and workers services tailored to their specific communities. Each center provides information on certification and degree programs, State and Federal tuition assistance, and local job openings within each health occupation. Visit New Mexico's AHEC website at http://www.nmsu.edu/Academic_Progs/Colleges/Health_and_Social/soahec for an example of the information available.

Many centers also sponsor programs introducing local schoolchildren to the medical field, and some offer continuing education assistance to practicing medical professionals. To see what resources are available in your area, contact your statewide Area Education Center.

Suggestions welcome

Do you have an item for the Grab Bag? Send it to Olivia Crosby, PSB 2135, 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE., Washington, DC 20212. Phone (202) 606-5716; FAX (202) 606-5745; E-mail: Crosby_O@bls.gov

Scholarships for minority grad students

Each year, 200 fellowships are awarded to minority graduate students by the National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science. Fellowships are available to Hispanic, African American, or Native American students studying science or engineering. Award recipients enroll in science or engineering Ph.D. programs or in engineering master's programs at any of 80 participating universities. The doctoral candidates receive tuition, fees, and a yearly stipend.

In addition to their academic studies, Consortium fellows complete a paid summer internship with one of the corporate sponsors of the program. Each of these companies specializes in some area of science and technology. Applications to the program are due by December 1. For more information, call the Consortium, (219) 631-7771, or write The National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science, PO Box 537, Notre Dame, IN 46566.

BAG

Train to be a trainer

Interested in a career in sports, fitness, or health care? Becoming a certified athletic trainer might be part of a game plan to consider.

Certified trainers help prevent and evaluate sports injuries and rehabilitate the injured. They must earn a bachelor's degree, studying subjects such as biology, anatomy, biomechanics, exercise physiology, and nutrition. Upon completing a degree, they must pass a national exam to become certified. Certified trainers work in health clubs, with professional sports teams, or as coaches and administrators in high schools and colleges.

For more information or to request a free brochure, contact the National Athletic Trainer's Association, (214) 637-6282; or visit its website at <http://www.nata.org>. (See the summer 1995 OOQ for two articles about careers in sports.)

College is possible

If the cost of college has you questioning your educational goals, a new guide provides sources for some of the answers you need. The guide lists books, pamphlets, and websites to help students prepare for, choose, and pay for college. It includes three scholarship database websites and is available in both English and Spanish versions.

The guide is prepared by the Coalition of America's Colleges and Universities, a nonprofit organization working with the U.S. Department of Education, as part of a campaign to assist students concerned about the expense of a college education.

For a free copy of the guide, *College is Possible*, call the Department of Education's college hotline, 1 (800) 433-3243. For more information, visit the Coalition's website at <http://www.collegeispossible.org>.

Avoiding small business scams

A franchise or home-based business is an option for business ownership, as George Silvestri suggests in his article on self-employment in this issue of the OOQ. But beware. Some small-business schemes are frauds designed to take your money, not help you make it.

Free pamphlets from the Federal Trade Commission can help alert you to frequent scams and give you tips on how to avoid them. Suggestions include:

- ◆ Check each business with the attorney general's office and the Better Business Bureau in your State and the State where the business has its headquarters
- ◆ Ask for—and check—customer references, and ask to see products and selling locations
- ◆ Get all promises and claims in writing.

Request a synopsis of the Federal franchise law or copies of the Commission's business-related publications—including *A Consumer Guide To Buying A Franchise*, *Going To Display Rack and Ruin*, and *Avoiding Vending Machine Scams*—by calling the Federal Trade Commission, (202) FTC-HELP (382-4357). Or, write FTC-CRC, Washington, DC 20580.

