

Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing's Future Joins With AACN to Offer New Minority Nurse Faculty Scholars Program

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is pleased to announce that the Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing's Future (J&J) is launching a new national scholarship program designed to increase the number of nurse faculty from ethnic minority backgrounds. The J&J-AACN Minority Nurse Faculty Scholars program will provide financial assistance to underrepresented minority (URM) nursing students to facilitate the completion of graduate programs and diversify the nurse faculty population. AACN's latest data show that only 10.5 percent of full-time nurse faculty come from URM backgrounds.

"AACN applauds the Johnson & Johnson Campaign for Nursing's Future for taking this important step towards increasing the number of minority nurses available to teach in our nation's schools of nursing," said AACN President Jeanette Lancaster. "This program shows a real commitment to supporting the educational advancement of minority students who will soon serve as educators, role models and leaders within the nursing profession."

The J&J/AACN Minority Nurse Faculty Scholars program supports full-time URM nursing students in doctoral or master's degree programs, with a preference given to those completing a doctorate. The program includes mentorship and leadership development components to assure successful completion of graduate studies and preparation for a faculty role. Scholarship candidates must demonstrate potential for long-term contributions to the field of nursing education and agree to teach in a U.S. school of nursing after graduation.

Scholarship winners will receive \$16,500 of the \$18,000 scholarship award with the remaining monies held in escrow at AACN to cover travel and other expenses for an annual leadership conference. Eligible applicants must be accepted into a master's or doctoral program at an accredited school of nursing and agree to attend classes full-time throughout the program's duration. Award preference will be given to students at schools of nursing which commit to matching a portion of the candidate's tuition costs. Students interested in applying for this program may download an application at <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/JJApp07.doc>. The application deadline for Spring 2008 scholarships is October 15, 2007.