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Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing Receives $600,000 Scholarship Grant from Helene Fuld Health Trust

The nation is facing the most profound shortage of nursing professionals in its history. Current projections reveal a potential shortage of nearly 800,000 nurses by 2020.

Texas produced almost 7,700 nurses in 2008, according to the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies. By 2010, data predicts Texas nursing schools will need to produce over 9,700 new graduates to meet its residents’ health care needs. West Texas is particularly vulnerable to the shortages of nursing professionals because of its demographics and diverse populations.

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing is pleased to announce it has received a $600,000 grant from the Helene Fuld Health Trust, HSBC Bank USA, N.A. Trustee to fund The Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship Fund for Baccalaureate Nursing Students.

The Helene Fuld Health Trust's mission is to support and promote the health, welfare, and education of student nurses. In 2008, The Helene Fuld Health Trust awarded grants totaling $7,648,489 to 23 nursing programs across the nation.

Scholarships will be disbursed on an annual basis to students enrolled in one of several innovative baccalaureate nursing programs offered at the Perry School of Nursing.

Alexia Green, Ph.D., R.N., dean of the Perry School of Nursing, said the scholarship fund will allow the school to continue to improve the supply, retention, geographic distribution and quality of nurses throughout Texas.

“The Perry School of Nursing plays a pivotal role in combating the critical nursing shortage facing Texas and the nation,” Green said. “Our students receive a first-rate education from nationally recognized faculty and are exposed to challenging, diverse health care environments.”
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recently announced the Perry School of Nursing as No. 1 in the state for 2008 graduation performance with 96.43 percent of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing students graduating. The school graduated 427 students last year.

The Helene Fuld Health Trust is the nation’s largest private funder devoted exclusively to nursing students and nursing education. In 1935, Leonhard Felix Fuld, M.D., and his sister, Florentine, created a foundation in honor of their mother, Helene. In 1965, the foundation was converted to the Helene Fuld Health Trust, and in 1969 HSBC Bank USA, N.A. (formerly Marine Midland Bank) became its corporate trustee. HSBC Bank USA, N.A. is currently responsible for overseeing and administering the Fuld Trust.