Second Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing student, Gregory Curry, recently was awarded $10,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) New Careers in Nursing scholarship program. The program assists college graduates with degrees in other fields who are enrolled in accelerated baccalaureate and master’s degree nursing programs and are from underrepresented groups in nursing or disadvantaged backgrounds.

Curry received his first degree in biological anthropology from the University of North Texas in 1991 with an emphasis in medical and forensic anthropology. The motivation for becoming a nurse came from playing on a rugby team where several teammates were nurses.

“Until that time, I had never met a male nurse,” Curry said. “Through fourteen years of scout leadership, I was exposed to multiple accidents, injuries and camp sickness and I found myself nursing scouts back to health in the field.”

He began increasing his skills and knowledge through additional training and found he enjoyed this role.

“I believe whole heartedly in the old adage, ‘When the student is ready, the teacher will appear.’ My life took a major course correction when I found that Texas Tech offered an accelerated nursing program,” Curry said. “As soon as I heard about the program, I began working on leveling courses in hopes of acceptance. I was not disappointed.”

Curry hopes to live and practice on the South Plains since his two younger sons have several more years of school. He plans to pursue higher education at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing to become a nurse practitioner. He is drawn to the ICU and emergency room, but plans to keep all options and eyes open to find the best fit.

“I plan on taking advantage of every opportunity available to me through this program,” Curry said.