**MHEC Announces $6.67 Million in Nursing Grant Awards**

Baltimore, MD – (June 8, 2021) – The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) Secretary, Dr. James D. Fielder, announced that $6.67 million was awarded for seven Competitive Institutional Grant proposals at five Maryland nursing programs by MHEC’s Nurse Support Program II (NSP II).

The FY 2022 Competitive Institutional Grant awards include multi-year implementation grants and continuation grants. All recommended proposals were approved for funding by the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) during its May meeting.

“These grants make it possible to provide the necessary funding required by our medical professionals to meet the current demands on our workforce,” Governor Larry Hogan said.

The size of each Competitive Institutional Grant award depends on the grant project’s ability to impact the nursing shortage in a timely manner, the depth and breadth of the initiative, and the feasibility of the budget.

“It is critical that MHEC continues to offer new and innovative ways to integrate proven statewide programs and develop strategic partnerships, benefiting our healthcare professionals,” Secretary Fielder said.

The final outcomes of this year’s awards emphasized how the proposal supported national and state initiatives:

* Through expanded enrolment, an additional 96 pre-licensure nursing students will graduate from the Nursing Program at Salisbury University as part of a fast-track initiative.
* Developing 3 new models for clinical education at Stevenson University with 20 additional clinical supervisor equivalents from five partner hospitals: Greater Baltimore Medical Center, Lifebridge Northwest Hospital Center, MedStar Union Memorial Hospital, Medstar Good Samaritan Hospital and Medstar Franklin Square Hospital.
* Continuing the successful Academic Practice Partnership for 200 clinical nurses to graduate with higher degrees at University of Maryland School of Nursing and 10 partner hospitals: Anne Arundel Medical Center, University of Maryland (UM) Medical Center, UM Baltimore-Washington Medical Center, MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center, Frederick Health, UM Harford Memorial Hospital, Holy Cross Hospital, UMMC Midtown Campus, UM Prince George’s Hospital Center and UM Saint Joseph Medical Center.

The nine member review panel recommended funding for 7 of the 18 total proposals, at 5 institutions of higher education with nursing programs in Maryland. Schools that received funding for FY 2022 include:

* Community College of Baltimore County
* Coppin State University
* Salisbury University
* Stevenson University
* University of Maryland, Baltimore

This joint effort between HSCRC, MHEC, and the higher education institutions in Maryland has concentrated on meeting the needs of nursing professionals at hospitals and nursing schools for more than 30 years.

The NSP II focuses on nurse faculty and increasing the educational capacity to prepare a strong nursing workforce for Maryland's hospitals and health systems.  The Nurse Support Program II is funded by HSCRC and administered by MHEC. For more information, go to www.nursesupport.org

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