

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming Caring Foundation

HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIPS

www.bcbswy.com

The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming Caring Foundation has been supporting students for nearly 30 years through its Health Professions scholarships. The program provides a \$1,000 scholarship annually to a student seeking a degree in a health profession at each Wyoming community college and the University of Wyoming (UW).

With the nationwide shortage of nurses, and through conversations with its hospital partners, the Caring Foundation recognized that Wyoming hospitals have a unique need when it comes to recruiting and hiring nurses, particularly in rural settings. Therefore, the Foundation saw nursing education as an area where it can help strengthen Wyoming's rural hospital system. This expansion included two scholarship programs offered through UW:

- **ReNew Scholarship:** Allows students to enroll in BSN coursework through UW simultaneously with their Associate Degree in Nursing. This program allows students to reside in their local community, while working toward a nursing degree. The Caring Foundation is proud to fund seven \$1,000 scholarships annually.
- **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP):** This advanced nursing degree offers two tracts: family nurse practitioner (FNP) and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP). Both clinical concentrations prepare students for careers in rural health care. The Caring Foundation is proud to fund five \$10,000 scholarships annually, with at least two required to be awarded to a student with a PMHNP focus.



In 2020, the Caring Foundation expanded its scholarship opportunities to include an Inclusive Scholarship for an Indian American student at Central Wyoming Community College. This \$5,000 annual scholarship is a full-tuition scholarship for a student working toward a degree with a focus on a health profession.

PROGRAM IMPACT:

150 Scholarships awarded since 2016

20 Scholarships awarded annually

"Pursuing my Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) was the natural progression for me increase my autonomy and continue caring for my patients. After graduation, my new role as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, allows me the opportunity to fight the mental health crisis within our state. Unfortunately, Wyoming struggles from a lack of resources and providers to adequately provide our citizens the care they desperately need. I look forward to this challenge and hope to make a lasting impact on health care in Wyoming."

– Connor Rezzonico

