Caribbean NET NEWS

Ten nursing students in St Kitts to get scholarships from Baptist Health

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BASSETTERE, St Kitts: Ten students working on their bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN) at the International University of Nursing (IUON) in St Kitts learned on Saturday that they will each receive a $20,000 scholarship from Baptist Health South Florida in Miami.

The scholarship recipients were announced by Deborah Mulvihill, RN, corporate vice president and chief nursing officer for Baptist Health, at Saturday's first graduation of BSN nursing students from IUON.

"Baptist Health is pleased to offer these 10 students the scholarships that will help pay for the last phase of their training in the United States before coming to work for one of our hospitals in South Florida," Mulvihill said.

The scholarship recipients will transfer to Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Ariz., for the last two semesters of training required for their bachelor's degree in nursing. When they complete their training and pass the required nursing board exams, they will work at a Baptist Health hospital for at least three years.

"Helping educate well-trained nurses through scholarships and partnerships with respected schools such as IUON is part of Baptist Health's strategy for investing in the future of the nursing workforce,"
said Brian Keeley, president and CEO of Baptist Health. "By partnering with IUON, we are proactively addressing the current and looming nursing shortages that are projected for our area as well as the entire state of Florida."

The scholarship recipients were selected after interviews held earlier this week with Baptist Health representatives, as well as a review of scholastic achievement and each applicant's written response to a question about why they wanted a career in nursing.

"Baptist Health is IUON's first clinical scholarship partner," said Warren Ross, president of IUON. "Through this relationship opportunities are provided for nursing students to complete their degrees and as graduates to help make a difference in patient care at Baptist Health hospitals."

Representatives attending the graduation from Baptist Health included Mulvihill, as well as Maria Suarez, corporate director, scholars program; Elvy Rubio, manager, scholars program; Yvonne Brookes, R.N., manager, clinical learning; and Manuela Vicente, corporate director, recruitment.

Baptist Health is South Florida's largest faith-based, not-for-profit healthcare organization. Two of its hospitals – Baptist and South Miami – are recognized as "Magnet Hospitals" for nursing excellence by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Other Baptist Health hospitals are Baptist Children's Hospital, Doctors Hospital in Coral Gables, Homestead Hospital in Homestead and Mariners Hospital in the Florida Keys.

The Baptist Health Scholars Program has more than 200 scholarship recipients each year attending partner nursing schools such as IUON.