Diversity Impact Weekend

Media Release – For immediate release
Contact 859-253-3637, ext. 5015

Hyden, KY - In keeping with its goals of continuously promoting diversity as an integral part of its mission to educate nurses to become competent, entrepreneurial, ethical and compassionate nurse-midwives and nurse practitioners, Frontier Nursing University has established the PRIDE Program (Promoting Recruitment and Retention to Increase Diversity in Nurse-Midwifery and Nurse Practitioner Education). The ultimate goal of the PRIDE program is to recruit and retain qualified underrepresented students in our graduate school of nursing who will meet the healthcare demands of an increasingly diverse population.

From June 9-11, the PRIDE program hosted its first Diversity Impact Event on the Frontier Nursing University campus. Students were given the opportunity to come back to campus for fellowship, networking and to participate in discussion forums related to increasing diversity in the nursing work force. A total of 16 students traveled from across the United States to participate in this event held on the historical campus in Hyden, KY. Frontier provided $500.00 travel stipends to all attendees through a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Session topics provoked lively discussion and debate. Topics included Surviving Distance Education, Reflections on Diversity, Sharing Circle, Resources on Racial Disparities, and What’s Race Got To Do With It: A Courageous Conversation About Race presented by keynote speaker Carol Taylor, MSW, Program Director for Comprehensive Family Services, at the University of Kentucky.

Participants conducted brief presentations on topics related to cultural beliefs and practices and health-related problems in specific demographics. Attendees also participated in teambuilding exercises and a diversity potluck dinner where students prepared and shared their favorite cultural dishes.

Through the PRIDE program, FNU continues to demonstrate its commitment to achieving greater diversity among its student body and within the nursing work force. Students have expressed how attending Diversity Impact Weekend was important because it increased their understanding of the need for a more diverse nursing work force. According to student attendee Beverly Wilson, “it helps us to remember that our client population is more diverse than ever before, and we must keep that in mind when providing care.”

“The response and feedback from faculty, students, and attendees for the Diversity Impact event has been excellent and we are looking forward to an even greater event next year,” said Kimberly Trammell, PRIDE Program Coordinator. For more information on this event, photos, and diversity potluck recipes, please visit www.frontier.edu/diversityimpact/

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