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Nursing student's education pays off

June 16, 2008 | Mitzi Bible

Gwendalyn Slone, a graduate nursing student enrolled in Liberty University's Distance Learning Program, has learned that a \$300,000 grant proposal she wrote for a nursing workforce diversity grant has been funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration. She credits Liberty's Master of Science in Nursing program for the accomplishment.

In a letter to Dr. Hila J. Spear, LU nursing professor and director of graduate studies, Slone writes: "In November, I developed and submitted a proposal that incorporated many of the things that I have learned in my MSN program. ... The readers were impressed with the design of the program, and I got my project funded. Thanks to Liberty for the knowledge that I believe was integral in securing this funding."

Slone works at Southwest Virginia Community College in Richlands, Va., where she is director of Veterans Upward Bound, a free pre-college program to assist veterans interested in attending college.

Dr. Fred Milacci, Dean of Graduate Studies and DLP, was happy to hear the news.

"As you know, any grant money received is noteworthy, but a grant this size is fantastic — and (in my view) noteworthy," he said in an announcement to LU's senior administration.

"Personally, what I find most gratifying about this is that it provides tangible, credible (in the academic world) evidence to something I firmly believe ... that the education we provide here at Liberty is not only Christ-centered, it is academically excellent."

For more on Liberty's graduate nursing program, visit the [nursing website](#).