

Florence Whipple Scholarship Fund

By Grace Jacobson, PhD, RN

Florence Whipple, RN, was active in the Idaho Nurses Association, as was the Director of Public Health Nursing of the Idaho Board of Health from 1946 to 1955. She graduated from Massachusetts General Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1919, followed by BS degrees from Mt. Holyoke College and the University of Minnesota.

The Florence Whipple Scholarship and Loan Fund were established at the request of her family, as a fitting memorial. The original sum was greatly expanded by the 1982 bequest from Marie Wiggins of Blackfoot. Other contributions include bequests on behalf of Kenneth Wiggins, Idaho nurses, medical auxiliaries, INA Districts and Conventions.

Loans totally approximately \$95,000 were given from 1982 through 2003 to 124 nursing students. The majority of the recipients paid back their loans, albeit some slowly! Combined with the variable stock market, loss of principal and inability to collect the debts, in 2004 it was formally decided by the Foundation Board to discontinue loans.

In 1986 the Idaho Nurses Foundation was established, and an Education Fund and a Research Fund were added to the Foundation. These scholarships were instituted in 1990, one student from each of the nursing programs in Idaho (ADN and BSN) receive a scholarship. A total of \$45,270.00 has

been given in scholarships to date. In addition, \$11,718.34 in delinquent debt was converted to scholarship contributions.

Eligibility requirements: full-time student in good standing, in a BS or AD nursing program in Idaho, and active in INSA or INA and be nominated by their faculty. Student nurse nominations must be submitted to the Florence Whipple Scholarship Board by November 15, 2007.

The following current nursing students wish to thank the Florence Whipple Scholarship Fund for supporting their nursing education:

Tamara Schaller from Northwest Nazarene University
Sheldon Rippee from Lewis-Clark State College
Heather Gonzalez from College of Southern Idaho
Greg Jones from Brigham Young University-Idaho
Ami Bigbee from North Idaho College

Florence Whipple has had a lasting impact on the education of Idaho nurses! If you'd like to contribute to the Fund or for additional information about the Florence Whipple Scholarship please contact Grace Jacobson via email jacograc@isu.edu or phone (208) 282-2437 or (208) 233-7363.