

Idaho Nurses Foundation
Florence Whipple Scholarship Fund
Grace Jacobson, PhD, RN

Florence Whipple, RN, 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 of Nurses in 1919, and then obtained BS degrees from Mt. Holyoke College and the University of Minnesota. Active in the Idaho Nurses Association, she often served as 'devil's advocate' in professional discussions. Her other interests included carpentry, miniature dolls, and sewing.

The Florence Whipple Scholarship and Loan Fund was established at the request of her family, as a fitting memorial. Provisions of the 1956 official document included a Board of Trustees to manage loans to "enable nurses to be prepared for positions of leadership in nursing, through higher education...and to assist with continuing education of Idaho nurses." The original sum was greatly expanded by the 1982 bequest from Marie Wiggins of Blackfoot, followed by those of Kenneth Wiggins, Idaho nurses, medical auxiliaries, INA Districts and Conventions.

The first loan, in records available to the current Board, was given in 1978. Loans given to 124 nursing students from 1982 through 2003 totaled approximately \$95,000. 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 (approximately \$12,000) the Foundation Board formally decided to discontinue loans in 2004.

In 1986 the Idaho Nurses Foundation was established to meet state tax requirements, to fit the definition of the IRS for charitable organizations, and to provide for philanthropic activities. An Education Fund and a Research Fund were initiated and the Florence Whipple Fund included under the Foundation umbrella. Since 1990, the Whipple Fund has provided 5% annually of its asset value in the form of scholarships to nursing students, with one student from each of the then existing nursing programs in Idaho eligible to receive a scholarship. Basic BS or AD students are generally given preference.

There are currently nine nursing programs in seven educational settings in Idaho. Students must meet the eligibility requirements: full time student in good standing; in an AD or higher program; active in INSA; and nomination for the award by their faculty. A total of \$50,310.00 has been given in scholarships to date. Students each receiving a scholarship in the amount of \$560.00 in November 2008 included:

Sarah Silva
Jessica Nelson
Janessa Hubbard

Boise State University
Boise State University
Brigham Young University-Idaho

Jessica Stradley	College of Southern Idaho
Mia Carr	Idaho State University
Rachelle Peterson	Idaho State University
Andrea Laursen	Lewis-Clark State College
Julie Jordan	North Idaho College
Tabitha Simpson	Northwest Nazarene University

For more information about the Florence Whipple Fund please contact Grace Jacobson via email at ISU or cell (208)339-4420.

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