

2005 Scholarship Recipients



Kimberly Adams: In her last year of undergraduate nursing school at the University of Washington, Kimberly feels she has many things to be grateful for. She was blessed with the opportunity to go with a church group to Benin, West Africa to serve in small communities which lack medical attention. From this experience, she gained the passion and desire to become a pediatric nurse practitioner and serve underrepresented individuals. In addition to this, she plans on studying abroad in Costa Rica, hoping to learn the Spanish language well enough that she will be able to serve disadvantaged, Spanish-speaking populations in the United States. Lastly, she hopes to continue her relationship with younger African American women in order to invest in their lives as a role model and mentor.



Laura Adiele: Laura has a BS in Community Health from Western Washington University and is currently finishing her BSN at the University of Washington School of Nursing. Eventually she plans to pursue a Master's in nursing so that she may become a nurse practitioner in women's health. She intends to combine both the skills and knowledge she gained from her degrees and experiences to target women, using preventative techniques. She is proud to be a part of an unrepresented group in the health field because she feels that she can help to fill the gap between what is offered and what should be offered as quality health care to minorities. She has worked as a nursing assistant in the past and is currently gaining new experiences by working as a nursing technician on a surgical floor at Swedish Medical Center.



Iseasa Combs: A Seattle native. Iseasa received her B.S. in General Science from Seattle University in 2000. After much thought and consideration, she decided to change paths and pursue a career in nursing. She will be returning to Seattle University to complete her course studies in an Advanced Practice Nursing Immersion program, which will allow her to be a family nurse practitioner. Eventually she would like to specialize in women's healthcare. She realizes that as an African-American woman, she is part of an ethnic group that is disproportionately affected by serious, but preventable, illnesses. She has decided to become part of the solution through providing healthcare, sharing knowledge and leading by example.



Halima S. Dahir: Originally from Somalia, Halima has lived in the United States for the last nine years. She was the salutatorian for the class of 2003 at Foster High School in Tukwila. Currently, she is pursuing her BSN at Seattle University and will be starting her last year of the program. Halima feels she has been blessed to have an opportunity to gain an education which complements her values and includes helping others in need. Although the importance of nursing may not always be recognized, Halima believes it is an invaluable component in the healthcare system and she is honored to pursue a career in such a wonderful profession. She plans to continue her education and earn her MSN.



Oruene Ibiba Jack: A recent graduate from Seattle Central Community College, Oruene has been a Nursing Technician at Harborview for little over a year. She has been able to learn a great deal about the nursing profession and says "she loves helping people and being a part of their recovery." Since she finds the cardiac system fascinating, Oruene plans to work on a cardiac unit. She is proud to be in the nursing profession and feels there needs to be more "culturally diverse" nurses. She is pursuing a bachelors degree at the University of Washington and would like to eventually hold a management position.





Yolanda Jacobs: Though born in Washington State, Yolanda has lived in many different cities throughout the US because her father was in the military. The oldest of three girls, Yolanda has always enjoyed the role of caretaker to her younger sisters - except for the nights babysitting caused her to miss basketball games at school. Yolanda returned to Washington over 10 years ago and graduated from Olympic College with an associate degree in nursing. Knowing she wanted to work in pediatrics, she decided to start at the beginning and so is currently working at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Tacoma General. It is a challenging but also a very rewarding job. This fall Yolanda will enter the University of Washington to continue her education in nursing towards her bachelors and beyond. Although not completely sure where her career will take her, she is interested in teaching and looks forward to many years in the nursing profession.



Janine Jones: Janine has been an LPN for eight years, with experience in long term and pediatric care. She is currently working for Group Health Eastside Hospital on the Orthopedic/Surgical floor. This position in an acute care setting has given her new experiences which she believes will broaden her scope and skills in nursing. She returns to school to pursue a course of study in nursing at Seattle University and plans to eventually earn a master's degree. Called a "lively" and "intelligent" student by her instructors, Janine thrives in academe. She wants to forge a challenging career "doing something she loves," and finds working full time and studying a means to attaining her long-term goal of becoming a Nurse Anesthetist.



Lula M. Johnson: Lula is a wife and mother of two young men. While working as a Certified Medical Assistant for 17 years at Group Health Cooperative, she managed to advance her education goals to her current status as a student in the Registered Nursing Program at Highline Community College. A 4.0 student, Lula is driven by a sincere desire to help care for the sick and the infirm. Lula also has been a Personal Trainer/Group Exercise Instructor for 12 years at a local health club. One of her goals is to intertwine her physical fitness career with her nursing career in order to help educate individuals regarding their total health. She has ambitions to become a Registered Nurse, work in an Acute Care Unit and in Patient Education.



Christina Johnson-Conley: Entering her second year of doctoral study at the UW, Christina is currently a registered respiratory therapist with a master's in social science and a bachelor's in nursing and biology. She has worked for over a decade in public health as a nurse consultant. Her interests and passion lie in addressing issues surrounding the health disparities of racial and ethnic minorities and she has demonstrated her commitment to health and social justice through her advocacy, activism, and volunteerism. When Christina left East Saint Louis the elders cautioned the younger people "Not to forget where you come from." She acknowledges that "Where she comes from" is the very reason why she is where she is today.



Selemawit Kebede: Selemawit moved here from Ethiopia in October 1999. She has wanted to be a nurse since she was a little child. This desire was strengthened even more after she lost her grandfather, who had been more like a father to her. Selemawit was alone with him when he died, and she regretted not having the ability to help him. Selemawit started her nursing prerequisite classes at South Seattle Community College and received her AA in 2003. The application process for nursing school took her two years but eventually she was accepted at Seattle University and started the nursing program there in Spring quarter 2005.



Francis Raschick: Francis was born in Edmonton Alberta and adopted by a Dutch couple. Her adoptive mother was a Registered Nurse, as was her birth mother (whom she met later). Although her professional career began as a flight attendant, Fran always had a strong desire to serve others as a nurse and after the birth of her two children, she decided to earn CNA certification. She served as a nursing assistant at a rehabilitation facility in Snohomish, WA and at Providence Everett Medical Center and completed her training as a registered nurse in 2000 at Everett Community College. Fran holds several professional certifications including Med-Surgery and Telemetry. She served in the mission field as a nurse in Venezuela and Mexico. She is currently pursuing her Bachelors in Nursing through UW Bothell.

