United Health Foundation invests in the 21st century health workforce

The United Health Foundation Diverse Scholars Initiative works to increase the number of primary care health providers ready to meet health care needs now and in the future by creating a more culturally relevant health workforce and a more effective health care system, particularly in underserved communities.

Research shows that patients are more open to receiving care and guidance from practitioners of their own race or ethnicity. These findings indicate that greater diversity among health professionals may improve health and health care delivery in the nation’s communities. United Health Foundation cultivates health professionals from diverse, multicultural backgrounds to increase culturally competent health care delivery, close the health disparities gap and improve long-term health outcomes. These efforts ensure that all communities receive the best quality of care now and in the future.

Our scholars
The Diverse Scholars Initiative invests in the 21st century health workforce by providing multi-year financial support, internship and mentor programs and annual scholar forums in Washington, D.C.

Since the program was launched in 2007, United Health Foundation has provided more than $16 million in assistance and funded nearly 2,069 scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students. In addition to demonstrating financial need, scholars must be pursuing a degree that will lead to a career as a primary care health professional and must indicate a commitment to working in underserved communities and community health centers.

Our partners
United Health Foundation partners with nine nonprofit and civic organizations to provide scholarships to diverse scholars across the country:

- American Indian College Fund
- Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund
- Congressional Black Caucus Foundation
- Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
- National Association of Hispanic Nurses
- National Hispanic Health Foundation
- National Medical Fellowships
- The Jackie Robinson Foundation
- United Negro College Fund