

YOUR COMMUNITY

Duke hosts Minority Fellowship event

Submitted story

DURHAM — It's a long way from Sisseton, South Dakota, to Durham, but nurse Barbara Dahlen was willing to make the trek in order to participate in the 2011 Intensive Winter Institute of the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) in Durham recently.

She was among a cadre of scholars from across the nation attending this year's institute at Duke University.

Dahlen, who earned her doctorate from Florida Atlantic University in 2010, is one of more than 250 minority scholars who have been aided in their pursuit of a doctoral degree through the support of the MFP since its inception in 1973.

Dahlen is an member of the Pembina Band of Chippewa Indians and one of the first fifteen American Indians to hold a Ph.D. in nursing. Dahlen heads the Department of Nursing at Sisseton Wahpeton College. At this year's institute, she shared the findings of her research in a presentation entitled "Giving Voice to Historical Trauma through Storytelling: The Impact of the Boarding School Experience."

The 2011 MFP Intensive Winter Institute was hosted by the Duke School of Nursing in conjunction with the Duke Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy.

Catherine Gilliss, dean of the Duke School of Nursing and vice chancellor for nursing af-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Catherine Gilliss, dean of the Duke School of Nursing and Duke's vice chancellor for nursing affairs, visits with Faye Gary (right), executive consultant and director for the Minority Fellowship Program.

fairs at Duke, provided opening remarks for the event. The MFP is sponsored by the American Nurses Association and by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Division of Health and Human Services.

According to Faye Gary, executive consultant and director for the fellowship program, the goal of the MFP is to facilitate the entry of ethnic minority students into mental health and substance abuse training and increase the pool of minority professionals who can become leaders in the field and address health issues facing underserved populations in an increasingly diverse society.

Currently, thirteen scholars are funded fellows in the MFP. The roster of scholars includes doctoral candidates studying at universities across the nation—including Case Western Reserve University, New Mexico State University, University of Arizona, and the University of Michigan.

MFP scholars and alumni gathered in Durham for three days of symposia by faculty from various Duke schools.

Symposia at this year's Institute centered on the theme "The Human Genome and Personalized Medicine: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders Prevention and Treatment in a Diverse Society."

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