



Mathew Forbes Romer Foundation/NSU College of Nursing: A Partnership in Caring

Inspired by the strength of a little boy with a fatal genetic disease, the Mathew Forbes Romer Foundation is leading the fight for education, quality assurance, and research of children's genetic diseases of the brain. As part of their mission, the Foundation has chosen to support Nova Southeastern University College of Nursing students with an interest in pediatric genetics and a passion for working with acutely or chronically ill children and their families. To date, two students Devi Patel and Melissa Pierre have been awarded Mathew Forbes Romer Foundation scholarships.

Recently, the foundation increased its involvement with NSU with a number of initiatives. A clinical pilot program has been developed whereby nursing students will have opportunities to engage directly with families of children with developmental disabilities through the NSU Mailman Segal Center for Human Development located on the NSU Fort Lauderdale-Davie campus. This center is one of the largest and most highly respected, comprehensive early childhood demonstration and training facilities of its kind. Its Parenting Institute provides programs and services for children and their families through parent/child classes, parenting support, and family advocacy.

In addition, the Foundation is funding an annual lecture series titled "Why Pediatric Nursing and Genetics Matter" to which students, faculty and other interested individuals are invited. They are also sponsoring a genetic testing and education event as part of the NSU Wellness program for faculty, staff and students.

Dean Marcella Rutherford, PhD, MBA,MSN, expressed her appreciation for the confidence of Foundation trustees in the NSU College of Nursing and for their partnership to increase awareness, knowledge, and care for children with fatal genetic diseases.

For information on the scholarships, or these initiatives, contact Dr. Jo Ann Kleier at jk947@nova.edu or 954-262-1978.

For more information on the Mathew Forbes Romer Foundation visit www.mfrfoundation.org ; email MFRF@aol.com or call 561-477-0337.