

TOURO COLLEGE

Touro College of Pharmacy

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For Immediate Release

Touro College of Pharmacy Receives CSTEP Award from New York State

Four Year Grant Will Provide Enrichment to Minorities and Economically Disadvantaged Students Interested in Health Careers

New York, N.Y., January 3, 2012 - [Touro College of Pharmacy](http://www.touro.edu) announced that it has been awarded a \$452,000 grant from the New York State Education Department for “CSTEP,” the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program. The grant, which will be utilized over the next four years, is designed to increase the number of minority and economically disadvantaged students who pursue careers in pharmacy or other health or science-related fields. The award marks the first time a CSTEP grant has been awarded to a pharmacy school in New York state.

Over 50 colleges and universities in New York state currently participate in CSTEP. The program helps students pursuing careers through academic support and enrichment, training in research methods, internships and counseling in test preparation, academic and career development, and graduate and professional school admissions preparation.

CSTEP students must be New York state residents, enrolled in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) or licensure qualifying programs; and economically disadvantaged or black, Hispanic, a native of Alaska, or American Indian.

“With this prestigious award, New York state is recognizing that Touro College is equipped to provide resources to our students, as well others, in science and technology,” said Deborah Williams, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor at the pharmacy school who led the effort to obtain the award. “This funding demonstrates that we are extremely vested in providing support for our students, and seeing them achieve academic success as well as graduating with a sound foundation in research.”

Dr. Stuart Feldman, dean of the College of Pharmacy, said a main function of the pharmacy school’s CSTEP program will be to enhance the entry of underrepresented minorities and educationally disadvantaged students into the pharmacy school and assure their graduation through academic support and scholarly research experiences with pharmaceutical companies or clinical externships with community pharmacies.

“There is a visible absence of pre-professional pharmacy students who are underrepresented minorities and economically disadvantaged in scientific research and community pharmacy,” Dean Feldman said. “As a College of Pharmacy we are committed to graduating a multi-talented pharmacist who will strive to reduce the health disparities that exist in communities of color.”

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In highlighting key elements of the program, Dr. Williams said participating students will receive mentoring and guidance to help improve their test scores; learn about health career opportunities through workshops and forums; receive guidance on financial aid; and visit academic facilities, laboratories, and local college fairs. An independent research project, designed and executed under the guidance of a pharmacy school faculty member, will enable students to perform literature searches, experiments, analyze data and prepare presentations.

Touro College of Pharmacy, which opened in Harlem in September 2008, is committed to offering increased educational opportunities – especially in Harlem - through programs in pharmacy education, research and scholarship, and through service to the community and the profession. For further information about the College, please contact Dr. Stuart Feldman, dean, 646-981-4701.

About the Touro College and University System

Touro is a system of Jewish-sponsored non-profit institutions of higher and professional education. Touro College was chartered in 1970 primarily to enrich the Jewish heritage, and to serve the larger American community. Approximately 19,000 students are currently enrolled in its various schools and divisions. Touro College has branch campuses, locations and instructional sites in the New York area, as well as branch campuses and programs in Berlin, Jerusalem, Moscow, Paris, and Florida. Touro University California and its Nevada branch campus, as well as Touro College Los Angeles and Touro University Worldwide, are separately accredited institutions within the Touro College and University System. For further information on Touro College, please go to: <http://www.touro.edu/media/>.

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