



HEAL Coalition ALERT: *Washington Post* Article Demonstrates Need for Proprietary Schools of Allied Health

A recent article in *The Washington Post*, which outlined the difficulties faced by students attempting to study nursing and related allied health careers in community colleges, demonstrated the value which proprietary schools of allied health can provide in training a new generation of medical professionals.

HEAL Coalition Board Chairman Mary Lyn Hammer commented that the article illustrated the importance of proprietary education: “Not-for-profit community colleges and four-year universities turn away hundreds of thousands of nursing and allied health students every year, simply because they cannot meet the growing demand for health professionals. We strongly believe that legislative and regulatory parity between proprietary and non-profit institutions of allied health is a critical step in training the many health professionals our nation’s medical system needs.”

Coalition Executive Director Tom Netting added that the HEAL Coalition would be meeting with relevant Congressional staff to educate Members of the 110th Congress about the importance of expanding access and incentives for individuals considering health-related careers. He continued: “This article – which called community colleges a ‘bottleneck’ for students wishing to embark on careers in allied health – further emphasizes the need for proprietary schools to have a strong voice in Washington to represent their interests, and inform policy-makers about the ways the proprietary sector can fill a critical role in recruiting and educating quality health professionals.”

To read the entire *Washington Post* article, visit http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/24/AR2006122400559_pf.html.

If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information regarding the HEAL Coalition, contact Executive Director Tom Netting at (202) 626-8553.