GENEX Case Manager Scholarship Award recipients were announced this year on May 8. This program was created in 2012 to promote the awareness of the case management profession, and to support the next generation of nursing school graduates. The philanthropic program awards $100,000 in total scholarship funds to nursing schools nominated by GENEX Case Managers who graduated from those institutions. There can be anywhere from two to five schools selected each year. This year’s schools, each receiving a $20,000 scholarship, are:

- Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell, PA
- Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV
- University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL
- University of Virginia School of Nursing, Charlottesville, VA
- Western Washington University, Everett, WA

GENEX’s Case Managers work with treating physicians and related parties to coordinate appropriate quality care, ensure patient satisfaction, improve medical outcomes, facilitate a patient’s timely return to work, and decrease overall health care and disability expenses.

**Investing For the Next Generation of Case Managers**

“Over the past several years, the demand for nurses has exceeded the available supply of both experienced nurses and new graduates from nursing programs,” said Peter Madeja, CEO of GENEX. “As the industry leader employing 1,500 nurse case managers, we wanted to provide a way for future case managers to pursue their dreams of becoming a nurse and getting the best education possible.”

“This year, we received 50 percent more nominations than last year,” said Debbi Bromley, Vice President of Human Resources. “The nominations submitted were incredibly well-written. You could tell that these individuals were passionate about their school and how it made a difference in their lives and careers. This made it much more difficult to pick the schools.”

**Standing Out From the Rest**

GENEX’s Case Managers nominated their alma maters based on what set their school apart from others, and why they believed their school was most deserving of the scholarship award.

For Polly McGraw, RN, MS, CCM, Montgomery County Community College deserved this award because it met two critical factors: a quality education and an affordable tuition. “Attending this college altered my life. As a single parent with limited income, I was working three jobs just to support myself and my children,” said McGraw. “I chose MCCC for its affordability. Where else could I receive an affordable education that would provide me with a skill set in two years that would enable me to support my family? Not only did this college provide me a quality education in nursing, but it also offered a free counseling center and child daycare program. I needed both of these support systems to help me cope with the rigorous requirements of the MCCC Nursing Program.”
Bobbie Doyle, RN, BSN, CCM, noted that the core curriculum required prior to applying to Shepherd University’s BSN program in West Virginia was crucial to her success later in life. “Through the core curriculum, you develop real life skills needed to be successful. The program fosters the development of intellectual and practical skills necessary for success,” said Doyle. “Those skills include problem solving, establishing relationships with individuals from diverse backgrounds with different ideals, effective communication skills, and a sense of personal and social responsibility.”

Western Washington University was nominated by Cheryl McDonald, MA, CRC. McDonald said that what sets the WWU RC Graduate Studies program apart from others is the philosophy of the faculty that is interwoven into their teaching. “Faculty members are unique in how they choose to present their materials, allowing for the students to learn to work with a variety of professional types,” she said. “They deeply consider how they can best present their material, fashion their assignments, and interact with their students in a way that will develop that student’s knowledge and professionalism.”

Lori Aylor, MSN, CCM, CRNN, nominated the University of Virginia’s School of Nursing for its focus on interdisciplinary care. “The nurse is a partner in care along with the doctor and ancillary members of the team, which allows respect between professionals while their care decisions remain centered on the patient,” said Aylor. “The focus on compassion and empathy for the patient, as well as the nurse, promotes sustainable and satisfactory work as a health care provider. I believe this is a tremendous way to develop excellent, well-rounded, and skilled nurse case managers,” she said.

Carol Davenport, RN, BSN, CCM, shared with us her thoughts on the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s School of Nursing. “This school shares very deeply in GENEX’s mission to provide exceptional disability management solutions,” stated Davenport. “UAB’s solutions include the exceptional education of tomorrow’s best and brightest nurse leaders who will provide exceptional care for their patients, as well as their patients’ families.”

She went on to say that the school serves as a strategically important business partner with health care entities, such as the School of Medicine, and hospitals and clinics at the local, state, and worldwide level. The school seeks to deliver innovative services through exceptional teaching and nationally recognized research faculty, as well as many successful nurse leaders who call UAB their alma mater. Whether it is with faculty, students, alumni, or the school as a whole, their strategic plan embraces the very idea of how each entity directly affects the “creation of a brighter future for those we serve.”

Each school held a celebratory lunch and was presented with an honorary check from a GENEX representative. Next year’s award program will kick off with a call for nominations in the first quarter of 2014.
2013 Case Manager Scholarship Award Winners

Pictured from Left to Right

**University of Virginia School of Nursing**

Back Row
- Dorrie Fontaine, Dean
- Gwynn Chambers, GENEX
- Clay Hysell, Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid
- Amy Karr, Assistant VP for Development

Front Row
- Melissa Pritchett
- Zuseen Rannigan
- Shelly Rush-Evans
- Stephen Vastardis
- Stephanie Knight

**University of Alabama at Birmingham**

- Dr. Linda Moneyham, UAB School of Nursing Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
- Carol Davenport, RN, BSN, CCM, GENEX
- Dr. Doreen Harper, UAB School of Nursing Dean
- Lisaa Ruhl, GENEX
- Linda Pickard, GENEX

**Montgomery County Community College**

- Beverly L. Welhan, PhD, RN, ANEF, Dean of Health Sciences
- Maria H. Toth, RN, APN-BC, EdD, Director of Nursing
- Polly McGraw, RN, MS, CCM, GENEX
- Mariellen Blue, RN, CCM, CDMS, GENEX

**Shepherd University**

- Sharon K. Mailey, PhD, RN, Director and Chair, Department of Nursing Education

**Western Washington University**

- Ed Goldenberg, WWU Faculty
- Erica Johnson, WWU Faculty
- Ann Blanchard, WWU Faculty
- Francisco Rios, WWU, Dean, Woodring College of Education
- Cheryl McDonald, MA, CRC, GENEX
- Beth Boland, WWU Faculty
- Tom Sebold, GENEX
- Holly Atherton, CM, FCM, GENEX
- Cameron VanDyck, GENEX