

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 2024

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NURSES FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2024 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Contact: Catherine M Pepler

cmpepler@comcast.net

Chicago — AAOHN (American Association of Occupational Health Nurses) Foundation is excited to announce that the <u>2024 Scholarship and Grant Award applications</u> are now open! These scholarships and grants support occupational health nurses (OHNs) who aim to advance the field of occupational and environmental health and safety by continuing their personal, professional, and leadership development, or conducting research that supports the mission of AAOHN and the AAOHN Foundation. Every year, the AAOHN Foundation awards numerous scholarships and grants to OHNs who qualify for these awards.

Dr. Stephanie Weinsier, Chair of the AAOHN Foundation states that the "Foundation Board of Trustees' is thrilled to announce that with the generous support of our sponsors and AAOHN members we are able to fund over twenty scholarships and grants in 2024." The scholarships that are currently available will benefit several AAOHN members interested in advancing their education by attending the 2024 AAOHN Virtual National Conference in June. Additionally, OHNs interested in funding to advance their research within the field are able to apply for a research grant and OHNs interested in advancing their leadership skills will receive funds to support their attendance at the AAOHN Conference of Leaders 2.0 in April. Weinsier says "stay tuned after the conference when additional scholarships will be announced to support OHNs interested in demonstrating their clinical excellence through American Board of Occupational Health Nurses Board Certification as a COHN or COHN-S". The Foundation Trustees consider ABOHN board-certification a mark of prestige, the key to advancing an OHN's career and earning potential, and a vital step toward protecting the health and safety of worker communities. Weinsier adds that "the ABOHN's 50-year longevity as the sole certifying body for OHNs in the US makes this partnership between the Foundation, ABOHN and AAOHN a valuable collaboration, enabling OHNs to gain prestige and achieve a sense of personal and professional satisfaction by demonstrating their knowledge. competence, and expertise as a COHN/COHN-S." Achieving certification also enables OHNs to be recognized for their clinical excellence and their commitment to lifelong learning. The Foundation Trustees are pleased to administer these scholarships in support of OHNs who are either national or local chapter AAOHN members. The trustees want to recognize a longtime sponsor, Dr. Joe Fanucci with Meditrax, as well as the Virginia Chapter of AAOHN for enabling this collaborative endeavor to support members across the US."

In order to maintain a high standard of quality and ensure funds are administered equitably, applicants must meet a strict set of criteria to qualify and be willing to undergo a rigorous review process by the AAOHN Foundation Scholarship Review Committee. This process has been created to provide a fair, objective review with stringent criteria to ensure funds are administered to applicants who demonstrate a commitment to professional development and make ongoing contributions to the field of occupational and environmental health nursing. These scholarships and grants are made possible by contributions from our generous Foundation Sponsors and AAOHN members. We are grateful for this support and proud of our past

<u>recipients</u> who demonstrate the character of OHNs who are committed to advancing the health, safety, and well-being of workers and the businesses and communities they serve.

We welcome you to connect with the AAOHN Foundation during the 2024 AAOHN Virtual National Conference where you will have the opportunity to learn more about improving your well-being and the well-being of the employees you serve, network with Foundation trustees, leaders, sponsors, and past scholarship and grant recipients, and have an opportunity to support the Foundation and its mission by participating in an online auction. To learn more about the AAOHN Foundation, visit https://www.aaohn.org/AAOHN-Foundation/The-AAOHN-Foundation

###

About the AAOHN Foundation

The American Association of Occupational Health Nurses Foundation (AAOHN Foundation) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, created by the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses Inc. (AAOHN) in 1997 to enable occupational and environmental health professionals to improve worker health and safety by preventing workplace illnesses and injuries. This is accomplished by securing contributions and administering grants and scholarships to support ongoing professional education, leadership development, and research initiatives.

AAOHN is comprised of more than 70 chapters, serving over 3,311 members across the United States and US territories, and includes international members. Together with AAOHN, the AAOHN Foundation is committed to ensuring that occupational and environmental health nurses are seen as the authority on health, safety, productivity, and disability management for worker populations by providing them the opportunity to continue their education and conduct research which supports the sustainability of the profession. To learn more about the AAOHN Foundation, visit https://www.aaohn.org/AAOHN-Foundation/The-AAOHN-Foundation.