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Minister of Health and Seniors awards Dr. Barbara Ball Public Health Scholarships

The Minister of Health and Seniors, the Hon. Jeanne Atherden, CA, CPA, JP, MP, today congratulated the ten recipients of this year's Dr. Barbara Ball Public Health Scholarships. Six are new to the scholarship programme.

Minister Atherden said: "After due consideration, the ten scholarship winners stood out as having the combination of academic achievement and choice of healthcare profession that would be most beneficial to Bermuda. I wish all our scholarship applicants success as they prepare for their future careers in healthcare."

The World Health Organization estimates that, due to growing populations, changing disease patterns and economic trends, there will be about 40 million new health sector jobs by 2030, mostly in middle- and high-income countries.

Minister Atherden said: "I encourage today's high school students to seriously consider a healthcare career. The prospects are very good and the healthcare skills you learn will support our Bermuda Health Strategy and Action Plan."

Since the scholarship was founded the Ministry of Health and Seniors has financially assisted 38 Bermudians who are beginning careers or pursuing professional development in public health. Scholarships may be offered for study in the following areas: nursing, occupational therapy,

speech therapy, dental hygiene, dentistry, psychiatry, drug counseling, social work, occupational safety and health, environmental health and medical studies.

This year the Ministry received over 60 applications, many of an exceedingly high standard. Eligible applications were assessed based on academic achievement, financial need and public health need for the profession studied.

Based on these criteria, this year's recipients are:

Gerteikquia Hatherley	Nursing	University of Alabama in Huntsville
Deidra Ferguson	Nursing	Southern Adventist University
Dwaynisha Pearman	Nursing	New England Institute of Technology
Chioma Nwasike	Medicine	Dalhousie University
Rachel Card	Family Nurse Practitioner	Chamberlain College of Nursing
Meliseanna Gibbons	Medicine	St. George's University
Morrissa Tucker	Social Work	Rutgers University
Teleza Pitcher	Dental Surgery	Howard University
Stephanie Wright	Nursing	Sheffield Hallam University
Reglindis Ratteray	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Southern Adventist University



(L/R Deidra Ferguson, Chioma Nwasike , Morrissa Tucker, Minister Atherden, Rachel Card, Gerteikquia Hatherley)

Editor's Note: Dr. Barbara Bertha Ball was born in Bermuda in 1924. Following her graduation from Liverpool University Medical School in 1949 and a short working stint in the United Kingdom, Dr. Ball returned to Bermuda in 1954 and devoted her life to the needs of the downtrodden. She was the first female physician to practice medicine in Bermuda, and a tireless champion for people's rights. The Government of Bermuda is pleased to recognise her by awarding scholarships to public health professionals in her honour.