

Delaware Valley Schweitzer Fellowship Program to be Launched

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Albert Schweitzer was a physician, philosopher, organist, and theologian, but is best remembered as a humanitarian. Dr. Schweitzer's idea of Reverence for Life, viewing all life as worthy and of equal reverence to his own, is reflected in his own life's work, including the establishment of the Schweitzer Hospital in Gabon. In 1940, the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship was established in the United States to support Dr. Schweitzer's work in Africa. In 1991, the U.S. Schweitzer Fellows Program was launched, with the mission:

To reduce disparities in health and health care by developing "Leaders in Service": individuals who are dedicated and skilled in helping underserved communities, and whose example influences and inspires others

In several regions around the United States, the program recruits over 125 Schweitzer Fellows annually. Schweitzer Fellows are graduate students in the health disciplines who participate in a year-long, stipend-supported, community service project, and then join the ranks of a national network of Fellowship Program graduates, who continue to seek opportunities to serve the community.

With guidance from the National Program Office in Boston, a Delaware Valley Schweitzer Fellows Program is now being launched under the leadership of Dr. David B. Nash. Although the local program will be administered through the Department of Health Policy at Jefferson Medical College, it is hoped that the Delaware Valley program will become a true collaboration across a wide range of organizations, and that it will join other local initiatives in helping to address the health needs of underserved populations in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Southern New Jersey.

Recruitment of Fellowship applicants will take place in the fall of 2006, with the goal of getting underway with the first cohort of Fellows in the late spring of 2007. For further information on the program, including opportunities to sponsor a Fellow, please contact the Program Coordinator, Nicole Cobb, MAOM, at 215-955-9995, or Nicole.cobb@jefferson.edu.