

Contact: Carol Rubiano
212-580-9706

PHILLIPS BETH ISRAEL SCHOOL OF NURSING ADMISSIONS RISE TO RECORD LEVELS

December 10, 2007 – New York, NY ... There was a time when nursing schools had to have a staff of recruiters traveling to various high schools to encourage seniors to consider nursing as a profession. Today, the Internet is the most effective recruitment tool. In addition, all of the publicity about the nursing shortage has spurred many to consider a career in nursing. Schools like Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing (www.futurenursebi.org) in New York City are deluged with applicants eager to fill the need.

Phillips Beth Israel, which awards an associate degree in nursing in innovative day, evening and weekend settings, received more than 900 applications for Fall 2007 admissions. In September, the School admitted 190 highly qualified individuals to its freshmen class, the largest entering class in the School's 103-year history. But the profile of the typical nursing class has also changed.

"This year, 21 percent of the freshman class are men," said Bernice Pass-Stern, MA, Assistant Dean, who is in charge of admissions. "The average age of our students is 27, ranging from 18 to over 50. This year a record 45 percent of our new students have prior baccalaureate degrees and 5 percent hold master's degrees, and many have an incredible variety of work experience."

Cameese Hawkins is among the successful applicants accepted for admission. He has worked as a volunteer for a not-for-profit organization involved in literacy education, protecting civil liberties, and promoting racial and ethnic harmony around the world. He also is a licensed EMT and has volunteered in an emergency department in Brooklyn, where he lives. In addition, he has worked as tutor at a City College of NY (CCNY)-affiliated Learning Center, and as an "explainer" of exhibits at the New York Hall of Science in Queens.

Hard-working and determined, he is simultaneously working for his bachelor degree in biology and a minor in education at CCNY while pursuing nursing at Phillips Beth Israel. During the summer, before embarking on nursing studies, he spent a month as an intern in Rwanda through a CCNY International Studies Program.

He interned as a nursing student at King Faisal Hospital in Kigali, assisting in the Accident and Emergency Department, Radiology, and the Operating Theater. He also spent time in a remote missionary clinic in the mountains of Shyira, where he made rounds with doctors and helped triage patients.

"The internship afforded me the opportunity to see what it is like to work in a health care setting in a third-world country with limited resources. Seeing people struggle to survive daily yet do so with much grace and dignity was humbling," said the future nurse.

Cam, as he likes to be called, was awarded a Hillman Scholarship to enable him to pursue his dream of becoming a nurse. The Hillman Scholars program provides financial support to cover all tuition, fees, books and uniforms. Hillman scholars are required to make a

commitment to work in direct patient care in New York City for two years after graduation from Phillips Beth Israel. Cam was enthusiastic in making this pledge.

“Phillips Beth Israel offers a rigorous program that prepares students for a variety of nursing roles. We have a faculty of knowledgeable, dedicated and caring teachers and we are extremely pleased with the quality of students who have chosen Phillips Beth Israel for their nursing education,” said Dean Janet Mackin, RN, EdD. “Cam Hawkins and his fellow freshman have an exciting and experience-rich learning and practice ahead of them.”

Phillips Beth Israel, located at 776 Sixth Avenue, between 26th and 27th Streets in Manhattan, is holding monthly Open Houses through March 2008. For more information about admission requirements and program options, visit the school’s website: <http://www.futurenursebi.org>.

PHOTO: Nursing student Cameese Hawkins, center, with Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing Dean Janet Mackin, RN, EdD (left) and Associate Dean Marilyn Parker, RN, EdD (right)

