

# INTEGRATED CARE

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

- Would you like to explore the rapidly growing field of integrated care?
- Would you like to experience working in a highly collaborative team-based care setting?
- Do you anticipate social work, counseling, or psychiatric nursing practice in an underserved area of one of the 12 rural counties in Western North Carolina (WNC)?
- Are you a member of a federally recognized tribe or are you drawn to working with a Native population, particularly the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians?

If so, you may be interested in the **Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Professionals (BHWET)** grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Western Carolina University's graduate social work program received this four-year federal grant in 2021 building upon the successful initiative that began in 2014.

This project is aimed at expanding the behavioral health workforce serving the needs of individuals across the lifespan in a wide range of settings who have or are at risk of mental health and substance use disorders and reside on the Qualla Boundary, home of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and across the WNC region of Southern Appalachia.

Students may apply prior to entering their specialization field placement. Social work students with Advanced Standing, and full and part-time social work, counseling, and psychiatric nursing students are eligible. Stipend awards of **\$10,000** are competitive. Students will be in good academic standing, have completed an elective in Integrated Healthcare or designated equivalent and an online Interprofessional Education module, and have identified an appropriate integrated care internship. Upon award acceptance, students sign a letter of commitment to begin their rural practice after graduation. HRSA BHWET Scholars will engage in a variety of interprofessional education experiences and complete their internship, and can feel pride in their notable accomplishments.



Since the initiative began, almost all of the students who participated are working in the region and were hired by agencies across WNC before or within three months of graduation. Many of these students have a simultaneous focus on addiction studies, schools, child welfare, or Native Health.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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WCU is a University of North Carolina campus and an Equal Opportunity Institution. "This project is supported by the Health Resources Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number MoHP31392, Behavioral Health Workforce Education & Training for Professionals, for \$480,000 and 0% financed with nongovernmental sources. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government."