Consistent with the legislation of Title VIII, Section 821 of Public Health Service Act, this Nursing Workforce Diversity program aims to increase the number of high achieving/high potential underrepresented minorities in nursing from economically disadvantaged background by achieving the following goals: (1) Cultivate the next generation of minority nurse leaders who are committed to health equity; (2) Strengthen the extent to which the DUSON/ABSN curriculum prepares graduates who understand and are committed to addressing the interrelationship between and among social determinants of health (SDH), health access, health disparities (health equity concepts); and (3) Continue to advance DUSON as an academically and socially responsive center of excellence in the development of nursing workforce diversity. These goals will be achieved by: (1) establishing and implementing The Academy for Academic and Social Enrichment & Leadership Development for Health Equity (Health Equity Academy), that will address SDH on the individual, social, and structural levels – the Health Equity Academy will develop and offer a summer pre-entry program to expand understanding of nursing as a career, promote the role of nursing and its interface with health equity concepts, and influence readiness for the ABSN program, and continue health equity threads as adjunct experiences concurrent with enrollment in the ABSN program; (2) influencing awareness, understanding, and commitment to health equity concepts among nursing faculty and communities of interest through a Health Equity Colloquium Series and collaboration with ABSN faculty in strengthening and implementing the ABSN curriculum to influence increased capacity of all nurses to competently address health inequalities; and (3) heightening the sense of diversity and inclusiveness within the academic and social milieu of the school. Individual level social determinants of health will be assessed for Health Equity Scholars and matched with financial, social, and academic interventions. In addition, partnerships will be established with a local health planning organization to foster health equity, and an inner city school and HBCU to cultivate a pipeline of ethnic/racial URMs committed to nursing and health equity. Health Equity Scholars and DUSON students in general, will have enhanced preparation to benefit rural and underserved populations and be qualified to meet public health nursing needs of State and local health departments; thus we seek a funding preference.