

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR THE GOOD HEALTH OF NEVADA

School of Medicine Receives Prestigious Hughes Grant

Lynne Williams, medical school information
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The University of Nevada School of Medicine is one of only 35 institutions throughout the nation to receive a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) "to enrich science education in local schools and help attract a broad range of students to biomedical careers."

Ann Diggins, director of the School of Medicine's recruitment office, and Dr. Kenneth Maehara, program director, applied for the grant and received \$400,000, which will provide four-year funding for the school's High School Scholars, Summer of Discovery and Teacher Seminars programs -- three programs that met the HHMI criteria of teacher professional development, student activities, and science curriculum development. More than 200 institutions were invited to compete for the awards.

"With their wonderful scientists and research facilities, these institutions have proven to be an invaluable resource to schools," said Purnell W. Choppin, president of HHMI. This brings to nearly \$150 million the grants awarded by HHMI to help improve science education at the elementary and secondary school level.

"We are very proud of the programs developed by our Office of Recruitment," says Dean Robert M. Daugherty. "They encourage under-represented minorities to consider careers in science and medicine, they bring science teachers to our school where they learn ways of improving their science curriculum with the latest information and technology, and they strive to re-ignite a fascination with science in students from grades 7 through 10. We are especially pleased that HHMI recognizes the contributions of these programs."

For further information about these awards and HHMI, visit their web site at :

<http://www.hhmi.org/precollege99/link.html>.