

**PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NBCC Foundation Awards 31 Addiction Counseling Minority Fellowships**

Greensboro, NC—The NBCC Foundation is pleased to announce the 2017 fellowship recipients for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). The goal of the program is to strengthen the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally competent services to underserved minority populations. The Foundation will distribute up to \$11,000 to each of the NBCC MFP-AC fellows to support their education and facilitate their addictions counseling service to underserved minority transition-age youth (ages 16–25).

The MFP Advisory Council for Master's Programs selected these applicants to receive the fellowship award. These fellows meet the eligibility requirements of the program, including committing to apply for the National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification prior to graduation, being enrolled in a master's program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP), demonstrating knowledge of and experience with racially and ethnically diverse populations, and committing to provide addictions counseling services to underserved minority transition-age youth (16–25) populations for two years post-graduation. The fellows will work with Foundation staff, the MFP Advisory Council for Master's Programs and mentors to achieve the goal of the program.

The 2017 MFP-AC Fellows are Jerilyn Adams, Marquette University, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Stacy L. Baker, North Carolina Central University, in Durham; Liliana Barron, Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; Mose Ervin Beaty, Lindsey Wilson College, in Columbia, Kentucky; Kaday Kabba Berete, Georgia State University, in Atlanta; Teresa Ann Bowman-Abernathy, Troy University, in Alabama; Analiza Dolliente Brantly, Park University, in Parkville, Missouri; Michael Brown, New Jersey City University, in Jersey City; Erin E. Currier, the University of Colorado Colorado Springs; Destiny De La Rosa, The College of New Jersey, in Ewing; Dorothy Hiralien, the University of Saint Joseph, in West Hartford, Connecticut; Amy L. Hopkinson, the University of Colorado Colorado Springs; Torri Montrice Johnson, Georgia State University, in Atlanta; Donnisha Marie Lavigne, Mercer University, in Atlanta, Georgia; Shawna L. Lupori, California University of Pennsylvania; Rocky Lykins, the University of the Cumberland, in Williamsburg, Kentucky; Lonetta J. Mason, Wake Forest University, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Nathaniel Mason, the College of William & Mary, in Williamsburg, Virginia; James E. Mayes, the University of Colorado Colorado Springs; Marie K. McMahon, Portland State University, in Oregon; Selah Joy McMath, the University of Colorado Colorado Springs; Renita L. Newton, Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; Juan Olivera, The University of Texas at Tyler; Holly C. Osterman, Western Kentucky University, in Bowling Green; Kristina D. Robinson, North Carolina Central University, in Durham; Elbert Smith, North Carolina Central University, in Durham; Ileah-Mare Smith, the University of Detroit Mercy, in Michigan; Matthew R. Smith, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Laura S. Toptine, North Carolina Central University, in Durham; Mikayla Williams, Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; and Francesca Zulueta, San Francisco State University, in California.

The NBCC MFP-AC is made possible by a grant awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the MFP-AC, including training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all NCCs. The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 30

\$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-AC application period in September 2017. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit [www.nbccf.org/Programs/Scholarships](http://www.nbccf.org/Programs/Scholarships).

#### ABOUT THE NBCC FOUNDATION

The NBCC Foundation is the nonprofit affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), based in Greensboro, North Carolina. NBCC is the nation's premier professional certification board devoted to credentialing counselors who meet standards for the general and specialty practices of professional counseling. Currently, there are more than 60,000 National Certified Counselors (NCCs) in the United States and more than 50 countries. The Foundation's mission is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change.

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