

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NBCC Foundation Awards 30 Master's Counseling Fellowships

Greensboro, NC—The NBCC Foundation is pleased to announce the 2017 fellowship recipients for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (NBCC MFP-Y). 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 \$240,000 to the 30 NBCC MFP-Y fellows to support their education and facilitate their service to underserved minority populations, with a specific focus on transition-age youth (ages 16–25).

The Foundation received nearly 250 applications for this fellowship opportunity. The Minority Fellowship Program Master's Advisory Council, chaired by 2014 MFP Fellow Dr. La Vera C. Brown, selected 30 of these applicants to receive the fellowship award. These fellows meet the eligibility requirements of the program, including a commitment to apply for the National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification prior to graduation, enrollment in a master's program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP), demonstrated knowledge of and experience with racially and ethnically diverse populations, and commitment to provide mental health services to underserved minority transition-age youth (16–25) populations for two years post-graduation. The fellows will work with Foundation staff, the MFP Master's Advisory Council and mentors to achieve the goal of the program.

The 2017 MFP-Y Fellows are Letisha Belk, the University of Mississippi, in Oxford; Jasmine Lynne Bensinger, the University of Central Florida, in Orlando; Juliana J. Blanton, Appalachian State University, in Boone, North Carolina; KiJha S. Brown, North Carolina Central University, in Durham; Marisol Bucio, Adler University, in Chicago, Illinois; Sabrina L. Burress, Eastern Mennonite University, in Harrisonburg, Virginia; Eric C. Cortez, the George Washington University, in Washington, D.C.; Jehanzeb Dar, La Salle University, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Cynthia A. Estrup, the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh; Tommy Fisher-Klein, Wilmington University, in New Castle, Delaware; Chelsea Fullilove, Florida Gulf Coast University, in Fort Myers; Nuriéh Zarrin Glasgow, the University of Wyoming, in Laramie; Rubi Esmeralda Gutierrez, San Francisco State University, in California; Krista Holden, Seattle University, in Washington; Amanda Horth, The College at Brockport, State University of New York; Janelle Lynn Jones, Georgia State University, in Atlanta; Danielle LaCost, the University of Wisconsin–Stout; Eugene Marsh, Rider University, in Lawrenceville, New Jersey; Patricia Martelly, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Yolanda Martinez-Pineda, Minnesota State University, in Mankato; Katherine Jane Melton, Boston University School of Medicine, in Massachusetts; Judy Yolanda Morris, Lamar University, in Beaumont, Texas; Leslie T. Morrow, the University of South Florida, in Tampa; Thanh Ngoc Nguyen, the University of Colorado Denver; K. Lynn Pierce, Georgia State University, in Atlanta; Ashlei Anastasie Rabess, the University of Central Florida, in Orlando; Sarah Rahman, California State University, Fullerton; Brittany Crystal Smith, Capella University, in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Beverly Van Drunen, Purdue University Northwest, in Hammond, Indiana; and Brianne Elaine Verraneault, Argosy University–Atlanta, in Georgia

The NBCC MFP-Y 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-Y,

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 31 master's-level fellowships of up to \$11,000 through the [MFP-Addictions Counselors](#) (MFP-AC). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-Y application period in September 2017. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit 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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