



PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NBCC Foundation Awards 23 Doctoral Counseling Fellowships

Greensboro, NC—The NBCC Foundation is pleased to announce the 2015 fellowship recipients for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). 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 \$460,000 to the 23 NBCC MFP Fellows to support their education and facilitate their service.



The Foundation received more than 80 applications for this fellowship opportunity. The Minority Fellowship Program Advisory Council (MFPAC), chaired by Dr. Sandra Lopez-Baez, selected 22 of these applicants to receive the fellowship award. These Fellows meet the eligibility requirements of the program, including holding the National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification, being enrolled in a doctoral 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 mental health and substance abuse services to underserved minority populations. Fellows will work with Foundation staff, the MFPAC and mentors to achieve the goal of the program.

The 2015 Fellows are Juanita Barnett, Auburn University; Taheera Blount, North Carolina State University; Homer R. Brown, Barry University; Kimberly M. Childers, Oakland University; Tina Fitts, Barry University; Paula Franklin, Governors State University; Pamela N. Harris, the College of William and Mary; Candice Epps Jackson, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Sharon Kim, the College of William and Mary; Shekila Melchior, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Lotes Nelson, Walden University; Alphonsus Ekele Ngwadam, Capella University; Stacey L. Olden, the University of South Carolina; Tameka Oliphant, the University of Georgia; LaKeitha A. Poole, Regent University; Jamie Rice, James Madison University; Julieta Rubio, the University of Texas at San Antonio; Florence Saint-Jean, Duquense University; Chris Allen Shreve, Oakland University; Julie Smith, North Dakota State University; LaKaavia Taylor, the University of North Texas; Melanie Varney, Georgia State University; and Stacy Perez Waterman, the University of Texas at San Antonio.

The NBCC MFP 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, including training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all NCCs. The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP application period in September 2015. 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 55,000 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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