

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Donya Wallace Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



Florence, SC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Donya Wallace, of Florence, South Carolina, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Wallace will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations.

The NBCC MFP is made possible by a grant first awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in August 2012. The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the NBCC MFP, as well as training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all National Certified Counselors (NCCs). 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 populations.

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$20,000 to Wallace and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Wallace is a graduate of Webster University, in Columbia, South Carolina, and is both a student and graduate of the University of South Carolina, in Columbia, where she is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in counselor education and supervision. Wallace's research focus includes mental health disparities among African-American women, the archetype of the Strong Black Woman, improving engagement and retention of African-Americans in counseling, and stigmas associated with professional help-seeking behaviors among African-Americans. This fellowship will allow Wallace to continue her educational studies and further her research agenda through active participation in outreach and research projects.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y) and 34 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 application period in fall 2018. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit [www.nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows](http://www.nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows).

#### 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 64,000 board-certified counselors 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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