



bridging the gap in mental health disparities

**2015 Symposium  
Speakers, Presenters  
and Roundtable  
Facilitators**

May 28–30, 2015, Raleigh, North Carolina

## **J. Thomas Smith, Ph.D., J.D., NCC, CCMHC**

Plenary Speaker (Friday, May 29)

*Community Heroes: Bridging the Gap in Mental Health Disparities*



J. Thomas Smith holds a Doctor of Philosophy in behavioral science from the University of San José in Costa Rica; a Juris Doctor degree from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law; and a Master of Arts in counseling psychology from Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier. He is licensed in Texas and Georgia as a professional counselor and licensed in Texas as a marriage and family therapist, childcare administrator and chemical dependency counselor. He is a National Certified Counselor (NCC), Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC) and Master Addictions Counselor (MAC).

Dr. Smith's interest in substance abuse and addictions began when two lifelong friends, on opposite coasts, were battling addiction to cocaine and alcohol. Dr. Smith has held a number of positions as a certified chemical dependency counselor and mental health counselor at multiple hospitals, including program director at basketball legend John Lucas's program at Spring Branch Medical Center. He has served in the administration or faculty at Texas Southern University, Prairie View A&M University, Houston Community College, Atlanta Metropolitan College, and College for Allied Health Professions. He also maintained a private practice providing counseling and assessment services to children and adolescents in the custody of child protective services and under juvenile probation. He is the author of *The Secret to a New Life (In Twenty-One Days)* from Xlibris Publishing.

Dr. Smith presently serves as a consultant and expert witness providing psychological evaluations for law firms and attorneys nationwide, with expert forensic psychological evaluation services in the areas of immigration law related to removal proceedings that focus on hardship to children and adults, evaluations of spousal abuse, and evaluations for political asylum. He also provides Department of Transportation (DOT) Substance Abuse Professional services for individuals and companies.

Dr. Smith has a federal law practice with a focus on immigration and citizenship, consumer bankruptcy and IRS tax defense. He aspires to become involved in mental health advocacy. Dr. Smith is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia, Georgia, Kansas, Tennessee and throughout the U.S. district court system.

As a member of the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA), Dr. Smith has served in a number of capacities, including the Awards Task Force Committee, the Professional Development Committee and the Public Awareness Committee. He has also served as AMHCA liaison to the Clinical Academy of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC). He has served on an NBCC examination committee, a job analysis committee and the Clinical Skills Evaluator-Clinical Academy Certification Committee.

Dr. Smith is a member of the Screen Actors Guild/American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA). He is a veteran broadcaster who has worked in major radio markets, including Atlanta, Detroit, Los Angeles, Memphis and Washington, D.C. He is host of a community issues-focused talk show, *Sunday Morning Live*, on Majic 102.1/KMJQ-Houston.

## **Taunya Marie Tinsley, Ph.D., NCC**

Plenary Speaker (Saturday, May 30)

*Spiritual, Ethical and Religious Values and Multicultural Counseling*



Taunya Marie Tinsley holds a doctorate in counselor education and supervision from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. She received her M.A. degree in higher education administration and college student development from the University of Iowa, in Iowa City. Dr. Tinsley also holds a B.A. in business administration from Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a certificate in missional theology from Biblical Seminary. Currently, Dr. Tinsley is enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry program with a focus in sports chaplaincy at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

Dr. Tinsley is a licensed professional counselor and the owner of Transitions Counseling Service, LLC and Life Skills Program, where she provides individual, marriage, family and group counseling and consultative services. Additionally, Dr. Tinsley is the clinical director of the Mount Ararat Baptist Church Counseling Center. In addition to providing clinical and consulting services, Dr. Tinsley is an associate professor in the Department of Counselor Education and program coordinator for the graduate certificate in sports counseling at California University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Tinsley has over 20 years of experience working in the K–12, college and university, and athletic and sporting environments. Her experience ranges from coaching high school and college athletes, athletic administration, and conducting life-skills training to consulting and providing professional counseling and psychological services. Her experience includes working with culturally diverse educators, students, and athletes in a variety of athletic conferences, including the Big Ten, the Big East, the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Dr. Tinsley has worked with the National Football Foundation, the National Football League (NFL) and the Pittsburgh Steelers to provide services to high school student athletes as part of the Play It Smart program and the Academics in Motion program. Additionally, she worked with the NFL Players Association, providing consulting and counseling services as part of “The Business of Football, Rookie Edition.” Dr. Tinsley assisted NFL Player Engagement with transition coaches certification training. Most recently, she assisted NFL Player Engagement with the mental health presentations at the NFL Rookies Symposium, the enhancement of the NFL Rookie Success Program, and the NFL Clinician Summit.

Dr. Tinsley has also remained active in both the workplace and in the community advocating for and promoting organizations, helping professionals and their clients. Dr. Tinsley served as the secretary of the Ethnic Concerns Committee of the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics as well as the secretary of the organization. Additionally, she served as the North Atlantic regional representative for the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development, the president of the Pennsylvania College Counseling Association, and the president of the Pennsylvania Counseling Association. Dr. Tinsley collaborated with the American Counseling Association to develop, facilitate and enhance the Sports Counseling Interest Network.



## Films by Director Alexander Vesely

[Viktor & I](#) is a film about Viktor Frankl, author of “Man’s Search for Meaning.” Alexander Vesely, grandson of Dr. Frankl, traveled the world for three years to interview Dr. Frankl’s friends and colleagues, recording their perspectives on how he lived his theories.  
(Thursday, May 28, 2015, 7-9 p.m.)

[Wizard of the Desert](#) explores the personal life and incredible career work of Dr. Milton H. Erickson, the founder of modern hypnotherapy.  
(Friday, May 29, 2015, 7-9 p.m.)

Director Alexander Vesely will be in attendance on both evenings to introduce the films.

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## Session Presenters

Friday, May 29, 2015

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### Mary Bartlett, Ph.D., NCC

Mary Bartlett is a licensed professional counselor in Alabama, a National Certified Counselor, a mental health consultant, a researcher and a trainer. She holds a master’s degree in counseling from the University of Maryland at College Park and a doctorate in counselor education from Auburn University in Alabama. Currently, Dr. Bartlett holds the positions of visiting assistant professor of graduate counseling at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and adjunct therapist at Castlewood at The Highlands Eating Disorder Treatment Center, also in Birmingham. She is an international speaker and has published research, manuscripts and book chapters on suicide prevention. Dr. Bartlett has extensive clinical experience in the areas of suicide, resilience and various mental health topics and serves Department of Defense leadership on these matters. She has held various faculty and teaching positions throughout Alabama. Dr. Bartlett is a member of the Academy of Eating Disorders (AED), co-chair of the AED Suicide Prevention Special Interest Group, board member of the Ethics Committee for the International Association of Eating Disorders Professionals, committee member of the Workplace Postvention Task force of the American Association of Suicidology, and serves on the Advisory Board of the Alabama chapter for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

- **Workshop Session A3:** Selecting Culturally Appropriate Suicide Assessments
  - **Workshop Session C3:** Life-and-Death Decisions: Suicide and End-of-Life Challenges and Issues
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### Philip Clarke, Ph.D., NCC

Dr. Clarke is an assistant professor in the Department of Counseling at Wake Forest University, where he teaches courses on addictions and advanced counseling skills. Dr. Clarke is a National Certified Counselor and a licensed professional counselor in the state of North Carolina. His research and writing interests include wellness and development, substance abuse, supervision and teaching, and individuals diagnosed with dementia and their caregivers. He currently provides individual and group counseling for clients living with dementia and their caregivers.

- **Workshop Session A2:** Principles and Practices of Substance Use Assessment and Diagnosis
  - **Workshop Session B2:** Addressing Disparities in Substance Use Counseling Among Underserved Populations
  - **Workshop Session C2:** Understanding the Ethical and Legal Considerations of Substance Abuse Counseling
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**Laura Gonzalez, Ph.D., NCC**

Laura M. Gonzalez completed her Ph.D. in counselor education at North Carolina State University in Raleigh and is a member of the Department of Counseling and Educational Development at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her research and service activities focus on Latino immigrant families in emerging contexts. Her work addresses questions such as the role of cultural and environmental variables in the mental health and academic development of Latino adolescents, and the function of stressors and barriers (e.g., discrimination, immigration status, poverty and acculturation stress) as well as supports (e.g., positive sense of school belonging, family loyalty and obligation, ethnic identity, peer support, and efficacy for academic tasks) in positive outcomes. In addition, Dr. Gonzalez has received a grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust to create and implement psychoeducational outreach programs for Spanish-speaking parents, with the goal to help them understand the U.S. educational system and be better equipped to help their children achieve their dreams.

- **Workshop Session C1:** *Caminos al Futuro: Working for Positive Outcomes With Adolescents and Parents in Latino Immigrant Families*
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**Robert A. Horne, Ph.D., NCC**

Robert A. Horne holds a Ph.D. in counseling and counselor education from North Carolina State University, a master's degree in agency counseling from North Carolina Central University, and a Master of Divinity from Duke University's Duke Divinity School. He is a National Certified Counselor (NCC) and holds licenses in North Carolina as a licensed professional counselor, licensed clinical addiction specialist and clinical supervisor intern. Dr. Horne is a 2013 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Fellow and currently serves as a therapist in private practice. His research focuses on substance use, identity and spirituality among males of African descent. Dr. Horne has experience working with diverse populations and provides mental health and substance use training in multiple countries, including South Africa, Guyana and Jamaica.

- **Workshop Session A2:** Principles and Practices of Substance Use Assessment and Diagnosis
- **Workshop Session B2:** Addressing Disparities in Substance Use Counseling Among Underserved Populations
- **Workshop Session C2:** Understanding the Ethical and Legal Considerations of Substance Abuse Counseling



**Sandra I. Lopez-Baez, Ph.D., NCC, CCMHC**

Dr. Lopez-Baez is a professor in the counseling and educational leadership programs at Montclair State University. Over the past 30 years, she has been a counselor educator and supervisor, practicing clinician, researcher and consultant. Her work has included undergraduate- and graduate-level teaching, as well as medical education, program development, research activities, consultation (cross-cultural), and counseling individuals, couples and groups in a private practice setting. Her research interests include diversity, multicultural issues, outcome measurement after "growth" experiences, and the neurobiology of connection related to discrimination.

Dr. Lopez-Baez has been an active participant in national, regional and state professional associations, serving as president of both the Ohio Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development, and Counselors for Social Justice, a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA). She has published in peer-reviewed journals, and has delivered multiple presentations at regional, national and international conferences. Dr. Lopez-Baez is a National Certified Counselor (NCC), a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC) and an Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS), as well as a licensed professional counselor in Ohio, Puerto Rico and Virginia. She is a member of ACA, the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD), the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES), and Chi Sigma Iota International Counseling Honor Society.

- **Workshop Session B3:** Understanding Socio-Political and Environmental Factors that Impact Suicide in Minority Communities
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**Heloisa Portela, Ph.D., NCC, ACS**

Heloisa Portela is a licensed professional counselor supervisor, a National Certified Counselor, and an Approved Clinical Supervisor. She holds a doctorate from North Carolina State University, in Raleigh. She has worked with children, adults and families since 1994. Dr. Portela began her career as a clinical psychologist in Brazil before becoming an LPCS in North Carolina, where she is a private practitioner and a professor at North Carolina Central University, in Durham. Her first job in North Carolina was working with victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. This led to a particular interest and extensive training in assessing and treating victims and survivors of trauma.

- **Workshop Session B4:** The Role Men Play in Reducing Interpersonal Violence (IPV)
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**Gwendolyn Keith Newsome, Ph.D., NCC**

Gwendolyn Keith Newsome is a counselor educator at North Carolina Central University, in Durham, in the Department of Allied Health, where she is the clinical mental health coordinator. Dr. Newsome earned her doctorate in counseling from North Carolina State University. She is the current ethics chair of the North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors (NCBLPC). She also has an active part-time mental health practice in Raleigh, North Carolina, which includes a focus on ethical supervision for provisionally licensed counselors. She has worked with the Department of Veterans Affairs through the Raleigh Vet Center, where she provided counseling services to veterans and their families. Dr. Newsome has served on the executive board of the North Carolina Counseling Association and has presented at the local, national and international level on topics related to professional counseling ethics, stress, multicultural counseling concerns, trauma and veterans issues. She is a member of a research team who was awarded a 2014 Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) research grant addressing the multicultural competence training of counselors of color.

- **Workshop Session C4:** Ethical Dilemmas and Legal Issues Among Victims of Interpersonal Violence (IPV)
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**Ajita Robinson, NCC**

Ajita M. Robinson earned a doctorate in counseling from the George Washington University in D.C. She holds a Master of Arts in counseling and human development, a Bachelor of Science in business administration, and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Saint Louis University in Missouri. Dr. Robinson is a licensed clinical professional counselor in the state of Maryland and a National Certified Counselor. She is the founder and lead clinician at Friends in Transition Counseling, LLC. Although Dr. Robinson works with individuals and families experiencing varied mental health concerns, she specializes in grief and loss, life transitions, and neurodevelopmental disabilities. She is also a visiting assistant professor in the pastoral counseling

department at Loyola University Maryland.

Dr. Robinson has spent much of her career examining the needs of and working with children, adolescents and families adversely impacted by trauma, poverty, substance abuse and other chronic stressors. Her research focuses on factors that impact well-being among African-American youth in urban public housing, particularly those with histories of trauma. Dr. Robinson was selected as an NBCC Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Fellow in the program's inaugural year and currently serves on the MFP Advisory Council. She is also a mentor to youth in foster care through the YMCA Silver Spring, Maryland.

- **Workshop Session B1:** Creating Pathways for Transition-Age Youths' Engagement in Mental Health Counseling
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**Walter L. Swingler, Ph.D., NCC**

Walter L. Swingler, of Los Angeles, California, earned a doctorate in counseling psychology and a master's degree in criminal and social psychology from California State University. He also earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in ethnic and community studies from Biola University's Talbot School of Theology. Dr. Swingler has an extensive military career that encompasses campaigns from Vietnam to Iraq, from 1973 to 2013. He has held positions of staff logistics officer and warranted logistician for the U.S. Army. Dr. Swingler's civil service career includes the positions of special agent for U.S. Customs and Defense Investigative Service, criminal and social psychologist for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Los Angeles, clinical coordinator of a VA Methadone Clinic, and clinical director of the U.S.VETS Westside Residence Hall. He has extensive experience working with homeless and incarcerated veterans in a number of programs. Dr. Swingler is a National Certified Counselor, a Master Addictions Counselor and an Approved Clinical Supervisor.

- **Workshop Session A4:** The Role of the *DSM-5* in Assessing Interpersonal Violence (IPV) Victims and Abusers



### **Christopher Townsend, NCC**

Christopher Townsend, of High Point, North Carolina, is currently a doctoral student in the rehabilitation counseling and rehabilitation counselor education program at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro. His research interest is in the area of complex trauma. He holds an M.A. in community counseling and a B.S. from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. Mr. Townsend is a National Certified Counselor and a licensed professional counselor, licensed clinical addictions specialist and certified clinical supervisor in North Carolina.

Mr. Townsend provides counseling services to children and adults with mental health, substance abuse and trauma symptoms. He is a national and international trainer on various mental health, trauma and substance abuse topics, including NBCC International's Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) model.

- **Workshop Session A1:** Two Sides of the Story: Filtering Clinical and Diagnostic Bias With Transition-Age African-American Males

## **Roundtable Discussion Facilitators**

**Saturday, May 30, 2015**

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### **Susan Branco Alvarado, NCC**

Susan Branco Alvarado, a 2014 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Fellow, is a licensed professional counselor, a National Certified Counselor, an Approved Clinical Supervisor and a doctoral candidate in counseling education and supervision at Virginia Tech's Northern Virginia Center. Ms. Alvarado holds a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from the George Washington University in the District of Columbia, a certificate in clinical community counseling from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and a certificate in marriage and family therapy from Virginia Tech.

Ms. Alvarado has maintained an independent counseling practice serving adoptive families, adopted individuals and other families since 2004. She is an instructor for Rutgers University's adoption certificate program, where she conducts workshops on counseling adult adopted individuals and birth families. She is an active member of the adoption community, serving on the Adoption Initiative conference steering committee and the American Counseling Association's taskforce to develop competencies for counseling transracial adopted persons, families and birth parents. Additionally, Ms. Alvarado is both a local and national public speaker and consultant on adoption-related clinical and policy issues.

- **Topic:** School Counselor Competence in Serving Transracially Adopted Children





**Mary Bartlett, Ph.D., NCC**

Mary Bartlett is a licensed professional counselor in Alabama, a National Certified Counselor, a mental health consultant, a researcher and a trainer. She holds a master's degree in counseling from the University of Maryland at College Park and a doctorate in counselor education from Auburn University in Alabama. Currently, Dr. Bartlett holds the positions of visiting assistant professor of graduate counseling at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and adjunct therapist at Castlewood at The Highlands Eating Disorder Treatment Center, also in Birmingham. She is an international speaker and has published research, manuscripts and book chapters on suicide prevention. Dr. Bartlett has extensive clinical experience in the areas of suicide, resilience and various mental health topics and serves Department of Defense leadership on these matters. She has held various faculty and teaching positions throughout Alabama. Dr. Bartlett is a member of the Academy of Eating Disorders (AED), co-chair of the AED Suicide Prevention Special Interest Group, board member of the Ethics Committee for the International Association of Eating Disorders Professionals, committee member of the Workplace Postvention Task force of the American Association of Suicidology, and serves on the Advisory Board of the Alabama chapter for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

- Topic: Suicide/Risk Assessment
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**Michael Brooks, Ph.D. NCC**

Michael Brooks is associate professor of counselor education at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro. Dr. Brooks earned a master's and doctoral degree in counselor education from the University of Central Florida in Orlando. He has presented in the areas of multiculturalism and multicultural competency, ethics relating to diversity, school counselor effectiveness, professional development school models, and mentoring at several regional, national and international conferences. Dr. Brooks has also served on nationally televised panels to discuss HIV and substance abuse.

Dr. Brooks has an extensive publication record in several counseling flagship journals, as well as publications in multicultural education and student affairs journals. He has one edited textbook, on black male success, and several authored book chapters. Prior to a beginning a career in higher education, Dr. Brooks worked as a county government mental health counselor. He has been the president of the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development and the Alabama Association for Counselor Education and Supervision.

- Topic: Multicultural Competence
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**La Vera C. Brown, NCC**

La Vera C. Brown received her undergraduate degree from North Carolina Central University in Durham and her graduate degree in counselor education from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro. She is currently a doctoral candidate in the counselor education program at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Ms. Brown is a 2014 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Fellow, a National Certified Counselor, and a licensed professional counselor supervisor in the states of North Carolina and Virginia. She has worked extensively in the Guilford and Wake County public schools as a counseling professional. Throughout her career of nearly 20

years, she has served as a community advocate, educator and therapist for adolescents, children and families. As a clinical supervisor and consultant for agencies in North Carolina and Virginia, her mission is to promote the well-being of individuals and families by ensuring accessible, quality mental health and substance abuse/addiction programs.

- Topic: Addressing Multicultural Competence in Counselor Supervision
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**Shanita Brown, NCC**

Shanita Brown is a doctoral candidate in the counselor education program at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. She is a licensed professional counselor associate and National Certified Counselor. Her 10 years of experience working in the mental health field include working with adolescents and adults as a lead clinician, school-based mental health therapist, and contract therapist for public and private agencies. As a 2014 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Fellow, she hopes to enhance her clinical skills, research African-American women's experiences with domestic violence, and continue counseling, teaching and advocating for diverse underserved populations.

- Topic: Relational Cultural Theory, Critical Race Theory and Women's Pedagogy
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**Philip Clarke, Ph.D., NCC**

Dr. Clarke is an assistant professor in the Department of Counseling at Wake Forest University, where he teaches courses on addictions and advanced counseling skills. Dr. Clarke is a National Certified Counselor (NCC) and a licensed professional counselor in the state of North Carolina. His research and writing interests include wellness and development, substance abuse, supervision and teaching, and individuals diagnosed with dementia and their caregivers. He currently provides individual and group counseling for clients living with dementia and their caregivers.

- Topic: Substance Abuse Among Adolescents
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**Jennifer M. Cook, Ph.D., NCC**

Jennifer M. Cook is assistant professor in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology at Marquette University, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is a passionate multicultural counselor, educator, supervisor and researcher who infuses advocacy throughout her work. Dr. Cook has served clients, particularly underserved populations, in private practice and clinical mental health settings, and supervised school and clinical mental health counselors-in-training. Her research interests focus on counselor multicultural development, with particular emphasis on issues related to social class and socioeconomic status. Dr. Cook earned her Ph.D. in counselor education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and was proud to be selected for the 2013 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program.

- Topic: The New Professor: From Interview to Completing Your First Year and Addressing Disparities in Faculty Staffing



### **Gloria Dansby-Giles, Ed.D., NCC**

Gloria Dansby-Giles is professor of counselor education at Jackson State University, in Mississippi. She is a National Certified Counselor (NCC), a National Certified School Counselor (NCSC), a National Certified Career Counselor (NCCC) and an Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS). Dr. Dansby-Giles has served on the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program Advisory Council and as southern regional vice president and ethics chair for the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). She has also served on the Mississippi Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors. Dr. Dansby-Giles has received numerous awards for teaching, including the Faculty Excellence Award, the Innovators Award and three College of Education teaching awards. Other notable recognition includes the Higher Education Appreciation Day, Working for Academic Excellence from the Mississippi state legislature and the Teaching Effectiveness Award.

- Topic: The New Professor: From Interview to Completing Your First Year and Addressing Disparities in Faculty Staffing
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### **Tahani Dari, NCC**

Tahani Dari is pursuing a doctoral degree in counselor education at the University of Toledo. She holds a master's degree in counseling from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti and an undergraduate degree in Middle Eastern studies and political science from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She is a National Certified Counselor and holds a limited licensed professional counselor license in Michigan. Ms. Dari is currently serving as a school counselor and assessment coordinator for K–12 students and as a private practitioner working with a broad spectrum of issues, including culture shock, acculturative stress, career development, college advising, depression, anxiety and trauma. Ms. Dari has experience in various community settings serving low-income families, minority populations, immigrants and refugees, and working with women's issues. Her goal as a 2014 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Fellow is to serve the minority community with a focus on underserved youth as an educator, consultant and counselor.

- Topic: Addressing the Needs of Muslim Clients in Counseling
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### **Melissa Deroche, NCC**

Melissa Deroche is a graduate of and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in counselor education and supervision from the University of New Orleans. During the past 10 years, she has practiced with ethnic minority and marginalized populations in nonprofit community-based agencies and in a state psychiatric hospital. She is a National Certified Counselor and a licensed professional counselor and licensed marriage and family therapist in both Louisiana and Arkansas. As a 2014 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Fellow, Ms. Deroche continued to develop her knowledge and skills as a culturally competent counselor and to work more effectively with marginalized and underserved populations. Ms. Deroche has a particular interest in establishing a collaborative relationship with local agencies to develop prevention and educational programs and services that meet the multicultural and diverse needs of sexual assault and domestic violence survivors,

including individuals with a wide range of disabilities. She maintains a small private practice during her graduate studies.

- Topic: Collaboration and Community Outreach
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**Avis Garcia**

Avis Garcia is a graduate of and is currently enrolled in the counselor education and supervision program at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. Ms. Garcia is a licensed addictions therapist and a licensed professional counselor in the state of Wyoming. Ms. Garcia has more than 11 years of experience working with diverse, underserved American-Indian clients. She is currently a graduate assistant to the University of Wyoming's Multicultural Affairs Department where she works as a counselor and mentor to other students. Her goal as a 2014 NBCC MFP Fellow was to continue her research and to become a counselor educator. She also plans to increase knowledge of

effective therapeutic techniques for American-Indian therapeutic relationships and help American-Indian youth to excel in the academic arena.

- Topic: Increasing Help-Seeking for Native Americans
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**Jennifer Gess, NCC**

Jennifer Gess, a 2014 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Fellow, is a licensed professional counselor and National Certified Counselor. She is a graduate of Seattle University and the University of Washington in Seattle and is currently a doctoral student in counselor education at Idaho State University. Ms. Gess incorporates multicultural, LGBTQ and advocacy competencies in the classroom, in supervision and in counseling sessions. Her research interests include increasing advocacy as part of counselor educators' identity and increasing counselor LGBTQ competency. Ms. Gess

works with LGBTQ children, youth and families as a counselor in private practice in Boise, Idaho. Ms. Gess is also currently founding the Idaho division of the Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in Counseling. As a previous child and family therapist at Navos, she worked with LGBTQ families and youth, and cofounded and facilitated P.O.W.! (Proud, Out and Wonderful!), an activism leadership group for LGBTQ youth in south Seattle. Ms. Gess's background as a mental health therapist intern at Seattle Counseling Service (SCS) included counseling for individuals, couples, families and groups for the LGBTQ population.

- Topic: LGBTQ Competencies in the Counseling Classroom
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**Laura Gonzalez, Ph.D., NCC**

Laura M. Gonzalez completed her Ph.D. in counselor education at North Carolina State University in Raleigh and is a member of the Department of Counseling and Educational Development at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her research and service activities focus on Latino immigrant families in emerging contexts. Her work addresses questions such as the role of cultural and environmental variables in the mental health and academic development of Latino adolescents, and the function of stressors and barriers (e.g., discrimination, immigration status, poverty

and acculturation stress) as well as supports (e.g., positive sense of school belonging, family

loyalty and obligation, ethnic identity, peer support, and efficacy for academic tasks) in positive outcomes. In addition, Dr. Gonzalez has received a grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust to create and implement psychoeducational outreach programs for Spanish-speaking parents, with the goal to help them understand the U.S. educational system and be better equipped to help their children achieve their dreams.

- Topic: Immigration and Undocumented Population Concerns
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**Kurtis Hooks**

Kurtis Hooks is a graduate of Point University in Atlanta, Georgia State University in Atlanta and Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk. Mr. Hooks is currently pursuing a degree in counselor education at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, with an emphasis in leadership. His work experiences include managing crisis teams and facilitating crisis intervention in acute and multidisciplinary settings. As a 2014 NBCC MFP Fellow, Mr. Hooks planned to enhance his advocacy efforts through refining strengths-based and empowerment approaches and effectively partnering

with community stakeholders to improve access for underserved individuals.

- Topic: Clinical Assessment: Facilitating Crisis Intervention in Acute and Multidisciplinary Settings
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**Tammy L. Hopper**

Tammy L. Hopper, a licensed clinical social worker, is the chief strategic initiatives officer of the National Safe Place Program and the director of RHYTTAC (Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center). Ms. Hopper holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Jacksonville University in Florida and a master's in social work from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She has more than 25 years' experience working with and on behalf of runaway, homeless and street youth. Ms. Hopper has served as chair and member of the National Council on Youth

Policy and as a consultant on trauma-informed care to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). She is the creator of the Network's HTR3 initiative, which seeks to provide organizations with a framework of recognizing, respecting and responding to the unique needs of survivors of human trafficking. Her career includes experience with mobile crisis units, inpatient adolescent services and PASAAC (Project Against Sexual Abuse of Appalachian Children.) She is a passionate advocate for youth and believes that partnering with youth is the first and best approach in creating positive outcomes.

- Topic: Transition-Age Youth (ages 16–25)
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**Robert A. Horne, Ph.D., NCC**

Robert A. Horne holds a Ph.D. in counseling and counselor education from North Carolina State University, a master's degree in agency counseling from North Carolina Central University, and a Master of Divinity from Duke University's Duke Divinity School. He is a National Certified Counselor (NCC) and holds licenses in North Carolina as a licensed professional counselor, licensed clinical addiction specialist and clinical supervisor intern. Dr. Horne is a 2013 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Fellow and currently

serves as a therapist in private practice. His research focuses on substance use, identity and spirituality among males of African descent. Dr. Horne has experience working with diverse populations and provides mental health and substance use training in multiple countries, including South Africa, Guyana and Jamaica.

- Topic: Substance Abuse Among Adolescents
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**Michael Jones, NCC**

Michael Jones, a 2013 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Fellow, is a licensed professional counselor, National Certified Counselor and Distance Credentialed Counselor. He is a current doctoral candidate in counselor education and supervision at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He is also a counseling faculty member at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. He received his M.A. in clinical pastoral counseling from Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio. Mr. Jones' work experience includes more than 12 years in mental health and pastoral counseling. He frequently presents on a variety of topics on the national, regional and state level. In addition to this, he maintains a private practice providing distance counseling and supervision and continuing education for mental health professionals. Mr. Jones' professional research and counseling interests include distance counseling and supervision, ethics, private practice consultations, and multicultural issues.

- Topic: Distance Counseling and the DCC Credential
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**Michael Kocet, Ph.D., NCC**

Michael M. Kocet is associate professor and department chair in the Department of Counselor Education at Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts. Dr. Kocet earned his Ph.D. in counselor education from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and completed a graduate certificate in dispute resolution at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He is a licensed mental health counselor and National Certified Counselor. His professional areas of interest include ethical issues in counseling; counseling gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender clients; and grief counseling. He is the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters on ethics and diversity issues and the editor of the recently released book, *Counseling Gay Men, Adolescents, and Boys: A Guide for Helping Professionals and Educators*.

Dr. Kocet served as member of the American Counseling Association (ACA) Ethics Committee and chaired the ACA Ethics Code Revision Taskforce. He is past president of the Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Counseling (ALGBTIC) and is currently a board trustee for the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERVIC). He serves on the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program Advisory Council. Dr. Kocet has presented at local, state and national conferences in counseling and student affairs and is sought as a national speaker and consultant on ethical issues in counseling.

- Topic: Ethical Issues in Counseling



### **Shana D. Lewis, NCC**

Shana Lewis, a 2014 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Fellow, holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Houston and a master's degree in counseling psychology with a clinical mental health focus from Troy State University-Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico. She is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in counselor education at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, with research interests in domestic violence and survivor recovery. Ms. Lewis has over 13 years of experience working in the mental health field serving adult, child and adolescent clients in schools, day programs, inpatient

hospitals, outpatient community mental health facilities and church organizations. She specializes in addressing women's issues including depression, anxiety, self-esteem, relationship problems and stress.

Ms. Lewis is a faculty member at the University of Phoenix, where she teaches at the bachelor's level. Ms. Lewis is the owner and clinical director of Living Well Professional Counseling Services, PLLC, a private practice counseling agency in Bellaire, Texas. Ms. Lewis is a National Certified Counselor (NCC), a licensed professional counselor supervisor, and the executive director and founder of Her VOICE, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering survivors of domestic violence through mentorship and education.

- Topic: Addressing Disparities in Mental Health Treatment and Services for Minority Women, Including Intimate Partner Violence Treatment and Services



### **Sandra I. Lopez-Baez, Ph.D., NCC, CCMHC**

Dr. Lopez-Baez is a professor in the counseling and educational leadership programs at Montclair State University. Over the past 30 years, she has been a counselor educator and supervisor, practicing clinician, researcher and consultant. Her work has included undergraduate- and graduate-level teaching, as well as medical education, program development, research activities, consultation (cross-cultural), and counseling individuals, couples and groups in a private practice setting. Her research interests include diversity, multicultural issues, outcome measurement after "growth" experiences, and the neurobiology of connection related to discrimination.

Dr. Lopez-Baez has been an active participant in national, regional and state professional associations, serving as president of both the Ohio Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development, and Counselors for Social Justice, a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA). She has published in peer-reviewed journals, and has delivered multiple presentations at regional, national and international conferences. Dr. Lopez-Baez is a National Certified Counselor (NCC), a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC) and an Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS), as well as a licensed professional counselor in Ohio, Puerto Rico and Virginia. She is a member of ACA, the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD), the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES), and Chi Sigma Iota International Counseling Honor Society.

- Topic: Microaggressions and Social Justice



### **Edward E. Moody Jr., Ph.D**

Edward “Eddie” Moody serves as chair of the Department of Allied Professions and professor of Counselor Education at North Carolina Central University in Durham. He also serves as a pastor at Tippett’s Chapel in Clayton, North Carolina. Dr. Moody received his B.A. in pastoral training from Welch College in Nashville, Tennessee, his M.A. in clinical psychology from Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, and his Ph.D. in counselor education from North Carolina State University in Raleigh. He is the author of *First Aid for Emotional Hurts*, a book designed to equip people to help their friends and family through difficult times. He is also the author of the self-help series *First Aid for YOUR Emotional Hurts*. As a minister, he helps people with a variety of family and personal issues. As a psychological consultant, he worked with serious offenders for the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice.

- Topic: Spirituality and Mental Health: Understanding the Cultural Impact of Spirituality on Health
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### **Heloisa Portela, Ph.D., NCC, ACS**

Heloisa Portela is a licensed professional counselor supervisor, a National Certified Counselor, and an Approved Clinical Supervisor. She holds a doctorate from North Carolina State University, in Raleigh. She has worked with children, adults and families since 1994. Dr. Portela began her career as a clinical psychologist in Brazil before becoming an LPCS in North Carolina, where she is a private practitioner and a professor at North Carolina Central University, in Durham. Her first job in North Carolina was working with victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. This led to a particular interest and extensive training in assessing and treating victims and survivors of trauma.

- Topic: Working with Veterans, Service Members and Their Families
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### **Ajita Robinson, NCC**

Ajita M. Robinson earned a doctorate in counseling from the George Washington University in D.C. She holds a Master of Arts in counseling and human development, a Bachelor of Science in business administration, and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Saint Louis University in Missouri. Dr. Robinson is a licensed clinical professional counselor in the state of Maryland and a National Certified Counselor. She is the founder and lead clinician at Friends in Transition Counseling, LLC. Although Dr. Robinson works with individuals and families experiencing varied mental health concerns, she specializes in grief and loss, life transitions, and neurodevelopmental disabilities. She is also a visiting assistant professor in the pastoral counseling department at Loyola University Maryland.

Dr. Robinson has spent much of her career examining the needs of and working with children, adolescents and families adversely impacted by trauma, poverty, substance abuse and other chronic stressors. Her research focuses on factors that impact well-being among African-American youth in urban public housing, particularly those with histories of trauma. Dr. Robinson was selected as an NBCC Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Fellow in the program’s inaugural year and currently serves on the MFP Advisory Council. She is also a mentor to youth in foster care through the YMCA Silver Spring, Maryland.

- Topic: Overcoming Barriers to Minority Mental Health Treatment and Services





### **Beronica Salazar, NCC**

Beronica Salazar is a doctoral candidate in counselor education and counseling at Idaho State University in Pocatello and a graduate of Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho. She is a National Certified Counselor (NCC) and a licensed clinical professional counselor in Idaho. She has experience working in community agency settings, counselor education, clinical supervision and substance abuse treatment. Ms. Salazar works as a clinician with underserved clients who are mentally ill at the Department of Health and Welfare behavioral health program. As an NBCC MFP Fellow, she plans to continue her dissertation research and conduct professional presentations to enhance understanding of underserved minority populations.

- Topic: Interpersonal Violence: Intimate Partner Violence in Adolescents
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### **Christopher Townsend, NCC**

Christopher Townsend, of High Point, North Carolina, is currently a doctoral student in the rehabilitation counseling and rehabilitation counselor education program at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro. His research interest is in the area of complex trauma. He holds an M.A. in community counseling and a B.S. from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. Mr. Townsend is a National Certified Counselor and a licensed professional counselor, licensed clinical addictions specialist and certified clinical supervisor in North Carolina.

Mr. Townsend provides counseling services to children and adults with mental health, substance abuse and trauma symptoms. He is a national and international trainer on various mental health, trauma and substance abuse topics, including NBCC International's Mental Health Facilitator (MHF) model.

- Topic: Helping African-American Males Survive Real or Perceived Hostile Environments
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### **Cory Viehl, NCC**

Cory Viehl, a 2014 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Fellow, is a licensed professional counselor and certified professional counseling supervisor in the state of Georgia as well as a National Certified Counselor. He holds a master's degree in community counseling from North Georgia College and State University, now the University of North Georgia, in Dahlonega. He is currently working on his doctorate in counselor education and practice at Georgia State University in Atlanta. His research agenda centers on LGBTQ issues, specifically counselors and experiences of minority stress as well as experiences of coping and burnout. In addition, he is currently researching the intersectionality of chronic illness and disability and identification as a sexual and gender minority.

- Topic: LGBTQ Competencies in the Counseling Classroom



### **George Walker, NCC**

George Walker, a 2014 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Fellow, graduated from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. He completed his master's at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida, and is currently a doctoral candidate in mental health counseling. Mr. Walker is a licensed professional counselor and National Certified Counselor. His clinical interest and experience includes extensive work with dual-diagnosed populations, inmates returning to the community and counselor supervision. Providing a strong multicultural perspective to future counselors by way of situating social justice as a core competency is a guiding passion. Clinical and personal experience informs Mr. Walker's

approach to providing therapeutic assistance to ex-offenders attempting to navigate the systemic barriers awaiting them upon release from incarceration. His proposed dissertation examines long-term substance dependence and its effects on the family. He is employed as the evening intensive outpatient counselor at a dual-diagnosis, residential program.

- Topic: Equalizing Treatment of Ex-Offenders: Working With Ex-Offenders With Mental Health and Substance Concerns
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### **Donna Weaver**

Donna Weaver is the Spanish services manager of the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority. On behalf of the authority, she serves College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC), a service provided by the state of North Carolina to increase access for North Carolina students to two- and four-year independent and public colleges and universities. The CFNC Resource Center, located on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, supports CFNC's mission with a toll-free telephone and e-mail college information center; training workshops for educators, admissions officers and school counselors; college planning publications; and Spanish services outreach to Latino families across North Carolina. On behalf of CFNC, Ms. Weaver is an advisory member of the Adelante Education Coalition and the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Latino Advisory Council.

- Topic: Immigration and Undocumented Population Concerns
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### **Peggy Whiting, Ed.D., NCC**

Peggy Whiting is professor and coordinator of counselor education at North Carolina Central University in Durham and former faculty of Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Whiting is a licensed professional counselor supervisor and licensed school counselor in North Carolina. She has created and implemented graduate courses in trauma and grief counseling, has published and presented in the area for over 25 years, and has maintained a private practice working with bereaved and traumatized individuals, groups and families since 1986.

- Topic: Trauma and Grief