

## **PRESS RELEASE**

NBCC Foundation  
3 Terrace Way  
Greensboro, NC 27403-3660  
Phone: 336-232-0376  
www.nbccf.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **NBCC Foundation Awards 23 Doctoral 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 (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 nearly 100 applications for this fellowship opportunity. The Minority Fellowship Program Advisory Council (MFPAC), chaired by 2013 MFP Fellow Dr. Robert Horne, selected 23 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 2016 fellows are Jahaan R. Abdullah, Governors State University, in University Park, Illinois; Samantha Airhart-Larraga, The University of Texas at San Antonio; Shadin Atiyeh, Walden University, in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Mina Attia, James Madison University, in Harrisonburg, Virginia; Kenya G. Bledsoe, The University of Alabama, in Tuscaloosa; Christine M. Brown, Governors State University, in University Park, Illinois; Letitia Browne-James, Walden University, in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Atalaysha L. Churchwell, North Carolina State University, in Raleigh; Edith Gonzalez, the College of William & Mary, in Williamsburg, Virginia; Sonia E. Gooden-Alexis, Argosy University—Washington, D.C.; Lyda E. Holguin Palacios, the George Washington University, in Washington, D.C.; Renee C. Howells, Idaho State University, in Pocatello; Joy Victoria Kelly, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Michelle D. Mitchell, the University of Central Florida, in Orlando; Christine M. Park, Walden University, in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Vanessa Renee Placeres, Georgia State University, in Atlanta; Taqueena S. Quintana, Argosy University—Washington, D.C.; George James Ramos Jr., the University of the Cumberlands, in Williamsburg, Kentucky; Ana Guadalupe Reyes, the University of North Texas, in Denton; Theresa M. Robertson, Loyola University Maryland, in Baltimore; Jennifer Denine Smith, Argosy University—Atlanta, in Georgia; Christopher Bernard Townsend, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, in Greensboro; and Victor E. Tuazon, the College of William & Mary, in Williamsburg, Virginia

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 NBCC Foundation has also awarded 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y) 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 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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