

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Atalaysha L. Churchwell Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



Morrisville, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Atalaysha L. Churchwell, of Morrisville, North Carolina, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP fellow, Churchwell 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 Churchwell and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Churchwell is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, in Murfreesboro, and of Tennessee State University, in Nashville, and is currently a doctoral student in the counseling and counselor education program at North Carolina State University, in Raleigh. Churchwell is currently interested in researching patient perceptions of trust and trust development in patient-provider relationships within primary care clinics serving marginalized populations. She is currently a population health director within the Duke University Health System, where one of her roles is establishing community-based care management programs for identified marginalized populations to improve health outcomes. This fellowship will help Churchwell become more involved in her research area through community engagement, education and training, advocacy for better resources for underserved communities, and alternatives for system effectiveness. This fellowship will also encourage additional involvement within professional organizations, where Churchwell will receive training that will improve her knowledge of the integral role she can play in an individual's recovery process.

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/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 60,000 National 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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