

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Kenya G. Bledsoe Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



Hoover, AL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Kenya G. Bledsoe, of Hoover, Alabama, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP fellow, Bledsoe 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 Bledsoe and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Bledsoe is a graduate of The University of Southern Mississippi, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi State University, in Starkville, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Bledsoe is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at The University of Alabama, in Tuscaloosa. Being able to give back to underserved minority students is personal for Bledsoe. As a first-generation college student from a small town in Mississippi, she had limited access to mental health counseling and academic resources growing up. Bledsoe is mindful that students in underserved communities continue to face similar challenges. Bledsoe has approximately 15 years of professional school counseling experience in secondary education. She has a keen interest in working with minority populations, particularly underserved students from rural and urban areas. She presently serves as the interim executive director at College Admissions Made Possible (CAMP), where their mission is to empower students at underserved schools by equipping them with the essential tools to gain access to the college or university of their choice. Not only has Bledsoe provided mental health and academic counseling services to students, she also strives to educate and empower parents and community stakeholders as well. This fellowship will assist Bledsoe with developing her research through direct service, community engagement, and advocacy for underserved students and their families through education and outreach activities. This fellowship will also provide Bledsoe with leadership skills and opportunities that will position her to continue to provide culturally competent services to a deserving, yet underserved population.

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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