



PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LaTonya M. Summers Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Charlotte, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected LaTonya M. Summers, of Charlotte, North Carolina, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Summers 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 Summers and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Summers is a graduate of Appalachian State University, in Boone, North Carolina, and is both a student and graduate of The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where she is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in counselor education and supervision. Summers is committed to serving underserved populations and believes that counseling should be an available and accessible resource, not a luxury. She founded the LifeSkills Counseling & Consulting Group, where she oversees a free counseling program for people who are uninsured and unemployed. In Charlotte, where she works, resides, and studies, 17 percent of the total population is uninsured and 10 percent are unemployed. Mental health needs are high and unaddressed in this population. Since 2007, she has served over 300 individuals and families. Summers also believes that training for counselors should be affordable and accessible. Thus, she founded the professional counseling training institute early this year whereby monthly NBCC-approved workshops are provided for \$35. Summers' current research interests include increasing self- and career efficacy among African-American female welfare recipients while serving as an advocate to help them overcome systemic oppression; helping to increase mental health professionals' awareness about identifying, assessing and treating racial conflict fatigue; providing evidenced-based approaches to treat financial anxiety, which affects 72 percent of Americans; and working to prevent suicide by jumping—a growing trend in North Carolina.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP application period in September 2016. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit 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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