



PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Latasha Y. Hicks Becton Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Greensboro, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Latasha Y. Hicks Becton, of Greensboro, North Carolina, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Becton 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 Becton and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Becton is a graduate of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), Wake Forest University, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and East Carolina University, in Greenville, North Carolina. Becton is currently a doctoral student in the counseling program at UNCG. Becton is interested in the intersection of policy and practice in various substance use and mental health treatment populations in the United States and beyond, with a goal of reducing health disparities. She is particularly interested in the intersection of university policy, implementation, and academic/personal outcomes for collegiate students who seek assistance for substance use-related concerns in the university setting. Becton is a licensed professional counselor and licensed clinical addictions specialist in North Carolina. Previously, she has provided counseling and substance use treatment services for mandated and voluntary populations in abstinence-based and harm-reduction treatment settings. She is currently completing her doctoral internship in a joint appointment with the University Counseling Center and the Vacc Counseling and Consulting Clinic at UNCG. She is involved with the research teams for the newly established collegiate recovery community at UNCG as well as the Institute to Promote Athlete Health and Wellness (IPAHW), where she is focusing on the impact of substance use and mental health concerns on the coping strategies and well-being of student athletes. This fellowship will provide Becton the opportunity to interact with likeminded professionals and receive additional mentorship and support for her work as well as to engage in scholarly research and professional development at the local, national and international levels.

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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