

PRESS RELEASE

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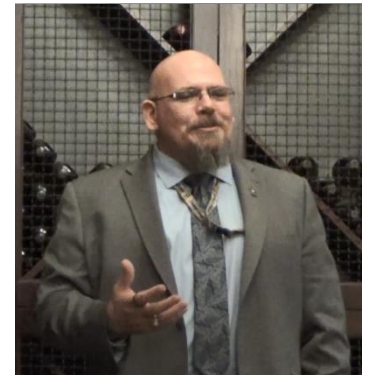


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 3, 2017

NBCC and Affiliates Community Capacity Building Updates

The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) and its affiliate organizations, the NBCC Foundation (NBCCF) and the Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE), recently hosted a collaborative board meeting in Denver, Colorado. Business conducted at this joint session included updates for board members on two innovative capacity-building initiatives, both of which are currently receiving support from NBCC and Affiliates.

Duane France, a 2015 NBCCF Military Scholar, addressed NBCCF board members regarding his current work with the [Family Care Center](#) in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Center was awarded an NBCCF Capacity Building Grant in the spring of 2016, with the goal of helping to bridge the gap in mental health services for veterans in El Paso County, Colorado. The program specifically targets veterans who are in need of immediate, short-term services while they navigate the lengthy referral process required by the Veteran's Administration to receive more permanent support. Though the program has only been operational since July 2016, Mr. France is already able to report success in multiple aspects of his initiative. To date, they have served 47 veterans and their spouses, with anticipated numbers as high as 80–90 by the end of their first year in operation. They have also intentionally sought out military-affiliated counseling students in the area to serve as interns for the program, thereby helping to ensure that veterans in Colorado Springs and the surrounding area will have continued access to counseling professionals with military-specific training. Mr. France and the Family Care Center are currently in the process of applying for an additional grant from the Colorado State Department, which would allow the use of funding that is set aside by the state to provide mental health care for veterans, but that is only accessible now that the program is established and fully operational.



*Duane France addresses
the NBCCF Board*



*From left: NBCCF Executive Director Sherry Allen,
Jamie Van Leeuwen, NBCC-I Vice President
Wendi Schweiger, and Ryan Grundy*

Jamie Van Leeuwen and Ryan Grundy, founder/CEO and executive director, respectively, of the [Global Livingston Institute](#) (GLI), addressed the joint boards on capacity building of an entirely different nature. GLI, though headquartered in Denver, Colorado, works collaboratively with several communities in East Africa to provide a wide variety of development opportunities for local residents. One of the more prominent aspects of GLI's outreach efforts is that of their immersion trips, most often to partner communities in Uganda and Rwanda, where the educational aspects of the journey are tailored to the specific interests of the students or professionals involved. GLI recently partnered with NBCC International (NBCC-I) to facilitate an [Institute for Service Learning](#) trip to Uganda, an immersion trip targeted to mental health professionals. In addition to the experience of visiting several of GLI's Ugandan community

programs, trip participants attended a mental health summit, bringing together American and Ugandan mental health professionals for an opportunity to learn about mental health needs and resources in East Africa and collaborate in a cross-cultural environment. In addition to these service learning opportunities, GLI also utilizes the [Mental Health Facilitator](#) program, created by NBCC-I, to expand capacity for managing mental health challenges in areas where professional resources are scarce. GLI uses NBCC-I's curriculum to train and empower residents of their partner communities in East Africa to recognize signs of mental illness and access professional resources when the need arises.

Innovative capacity-building efforts like these are an integral aspect of NBCC's vision of enhancing society worldwide with quality counseling. NBCC and its affiliate organizations applaud the successes of both the Family Care Center and Global Livingston Institute and look forward to further opportunities for collaboration as we work together to expand counseling resources to those in need, both nationally and internationally.

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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