



PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tabitha R. Haynes Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Raleigh, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Tabitha R. Haynes, of Raleigh, North Carolina, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Haynes 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 Haynes and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Haynes is a graduate of The University of North Carolina at Wilmington and of North Carolina Central University, in Durham, and is currently a doctoral student in the counseling and counselor education program at North Carolina State University, in Raleigh. Haynes is interested in evaluating the stigma associated with the use of mental health services and counseling among ethnic minorities, and investigating solutions to closing the gap in care. Her research efforts focus on the lack of available treatment, lack of quality care, poor outcomes, and the misdiagnosis of mental illness in African-American females suffering from trauma-related disorders. She is also interested in evaluating the intersectionality of multiple levels of oppression experienced by African-American women that lead to low self-esteem, depression and anxiety, and prevent them from entering into counseling. Haynes is currently a graduate assistant at North Carolina State University's counseling center, where her primary role is coordinating outreach services and helping to develop programs that educate students, faculty, and staff on mental health prevention and treatment. This year, she will work to increase outreach efforts to target students of color and minimize the stigmas and barriers associated with mental health in the college setting. Additionally, she is a licensed clinician working with underserved youth in psychiatric residential care. This fellowship will help Haynes prepare to be an innovative scholar, practitioner, advocate and educator in the field of multicultural counseling practice. She will be afforded the opportunity to become involved with professional organizations and receive training while working with other student fellows, professors, and experts in the field. This fellowship will also aid in her efforts to conduct workshops and training seminars at local and national conferences, and bring awareness of disparities in mental health for minority populations to the forefront.

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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