

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NBCC Foundation Awards 30 Master’s Counseling Fellowships

Greensboro, NC – The NBCC Foundation is pleased to announce the 2020 fellowship recipients for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program Mental Health Counseling-Master’s (NBCC MFP-MHC-M).

The goals of the program are to strengthen the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increase the number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally competent services to underserved and never-served populations. The NBCC Foundation will distribute \$10,000 each to the 30 NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellows to support their education and facilitate their service to underserved populations.

The NBCC Foundation received over 200 applications for this fellowship opportunity. The Minority Fellowship Program Mental Health Counseling Advisory Council, chaired by 2014 MFP Fellow Dr. Dannette Berksteiner, selected 30 of these applicants to receive the fellowship award. These fellows meet the eligibility requirements of the program, including:

- commitment to apply for the National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification prior to graduation.
- enrollment in a master’s program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).
- demonstrated knowledge of and experience with racially and ethnically diverse populations.
- commitment to provide mental health services to underserved populations for two years post-graduation.

The fellows will work with NBCC Foundation staff, the MFP Mental Health Counseling Advisory Council, and mentors to achieve the goals of the program.

The 2020 MFP-MHC-M Fellows are:

Hannah K. Bangs, Northeastern Illinois University
Ash M. Bayer, University of New Orleans
Brianna Berry, Clark Atlanta University
Bradford (Mike) Bethea II, Walden University
Monika (Momo) Cristina Cabrera, The University of Arizona
Aimee R. Christensen, Northwest Nazarene University
Hangatu Umar Dawud, Seattle University
Michael J. Dyson, North Carolina Central University
Joel Gopurathingal, Boston University School of Medicine
Destini L. Highsmith, University of St. Joseph
Sahaj Kohli, The George Washington University
Shanika D.L. McKoy, University of St. Joseph
Sidney Alexandria Minor, Mercer University
Luz M. Miranda, Northwestern University

Griffin Leigh Nielson-Smith, Portland State University
Shalom Parker, Adler University
Michelle Phillips, Seattle University
Tori Press, Louisiana State University
Leslie C. Acevedo-Preveaux, Mercer University
Chanale D. Propst, East Carolina University
Hailey Rae Robertson, University of the Cumberlands
Jairo Ivan Robles Morales, Middle Tennessee State University
Patricia Saye, Louisiana State University
Hope Elizabeth Swearingen, Denver Seminary
Claire Tam, Lewis & Clark College
Ángela Vásquez Vásquez, Portland State University
Millie M. Villafane, Liberty University
Anna Walters, Northwestern University
Kimberley Kai Winther Warnecke, George Fox University
Tony T. Yang, Winona State University

The NBCC MFP-MHC-M is made possible by a grant awarded to the NBCC Foundation by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The NBCC Foundation administers the MFP-MHC-M, including training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all board certified counselors. The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 20 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 40 [master's-level fellowships](#) of \$15,000 through the MFP for Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). The NBCC Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-MHC-M application period in fall 2020. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit <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 66,000 board certified counselors in the United States and over 50 countries. The NBCC Foundation's mission is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change.

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