

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Bradford “Mike” Bethea II Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Disputanta, VA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Bradford “Mike” Bethea II of Disputanta, Virginia, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Mental Health Counseling-Master’s (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Bethea will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his service to underserved populations.

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 goal of the program is to reduce health disparities and improve behavioral health care outcomes for racially and ethnically diverse populations by increasing the number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally competent services to underserved populations.

The NBCC Foundation will distribute \$10,000 to Bethea and the other 29 master’s-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Bethea is a graduate of John Tyler Community College, Columbia College, and Webster University and is currently enrolled at Walden University, where he is pursuing a master’s degree in the clinical mental health counseling program. Bethea is excited to be selected for the program because it is a unique educational opportunity that will strengthen his professional portfolio and provide specialized preparation to help the veteran population addressing post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, and other negative influences that may be stagnating their mental health. Bethea’s commitment to the military population is unwavering, and his motivation to become a clinical mental health counselor stems from his experience in the military and transition into retirement. His experiences as a soldier and the unconventional path that he traveled to achieve his goals while overcoming personal challenges provide him with a unique insight that will allow him to establish a rapport with those seeking healthier alternatives to regain control of their lives. Bethea is honored to be a part of this cohort and is confident it will help him hone his professional identity and support his goals of completing his degree, earning licensure as a counselor, and giving back to his community.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 20 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the MFP 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 nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows.

*Biographical information provided by the awardee.

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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