

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2020

Kiersten Hawes Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Memphis, TN—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Kiersten Hawes, of Memphis, Tennessee, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Doctoral Counselors (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Doctoral Fellow, Hawes will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved populations.

The NBCC MFP 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, including training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all board certified counselors. 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 Foundation will distribute \$20,000 to Hawes and the other 19 doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Hawes is a graduate of Spelman College and is both a graduate of and currently enrolled as a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at The University of Memphis. Hawes is interested in researching the efficacy of neuroscience-informed interventions with minority populations that are exposed to adverse childhood experiences in underserved communities. Her clinical interests include uncovering how culture, ethnicity, and gender affect the grief recovery process, understanding how people of color cope with loss, and how to apply these findings in a community group setting. She is a graduate research assistant in the BRAIN CENTER Lab at The University of Memphis where the interdisciplinary research team is conducting a pilot study examining the clinical utility of neurofeedback with children in residential treatment with a history of substance abuse, mental health, and behavioral disorders.

As a practicing Licensed Professional Counselor in Tennessee, Hawes also facilitates a recurring grief recovery therapeutic group serving minority populations in an urban community setting. This fellowship will equip her with tools to further become more involved in her clinical areas of interest through direct service and community involvement for underserved minority populations. This fellowship will also promote growth as a counselor educator and counseling supervisor as she becomes more involved with professional organizations and receives further training to provide counseling services to underserved minority populations.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 30 \$10,000 [master's-level fellowships](#) through the MFP-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M) 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 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.

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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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