

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Lisa S. Hanks Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation**



Baltimore, MD—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Lisa S. Hanks, of Baltimore, Maryland, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Doctoral Counselors (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Doctoral Fellow, Hanks 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 Hanks and the other 19 doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Hanks is a graduate of Coppin State University and Johns Hopkins University, and she is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at University of the Cumberland. Hanks is interested in researching parental addiction to alcohol and/or other substances and the impact on familial multigenerational and transgenerational addiction. For over 15 years, Hanks has served in various capacities to improve the quality of life for those suffering from addiction. In her current appointment, she works with an underserved population that suffers from chronic homelessness paired with comorbid substance use and other mental health disorders.

As a mental health therapist manager, she is a supervisor, mentor, and gatekeeper for the counseling profession. She coaches both novice and experienced clinicians to provide evidence-based substance use and mental health treatment to individuals housed in a homeless shelter. In her private practice, Hanks provides mental health treatment to a diverse population as she work to help individuals gain optimal wellness. She also provides evidence-based practices training to an organization that serves thousands of vulnerable individuals and families in the Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia area. Other research interests include investigating the prevalence of clinical insomnia within the substance use population.

The NBCC MFP will help Hanks continue her research efforts in the field of addiction to continue to improve the quality of services provided to this underserved population as well as help her add to research in hopes of changing the trajectory of multigenerational and transgenerational addiction within family systems. Hanks hopes to also reach her goal of earning a full-time faculty position to educate and mentor future counselors and counselor educators.

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](http://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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