

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Marcus Z. Folkes Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Jacksonville, FL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Marcus Z. Folkes, of Jacksonville, Florida, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Doctoral Counselors (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Doctoral Fellow, Folkes will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his 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 Folkes and the other 19 doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Folkes is a graduate of Bethune-Cookman University and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at University of the Cumberlands. Folkes is interested in researching the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and adulthood victimization/hazing practices in minority populations at historically Black colleges and universities in order to understand the stigmas and barriers associated with mental health counseling/services in the African American community. He is also a practicing clinician working at a residential group home for adolescent males in the Florida foster care system. Folkes plans to launch a campaign during the summer to be titled “Change the Narrative Project,” in which lived experiences of minorities are broadcast via a mini docuseries. This fellowship will allow Folkes to become more involved in his research area through community involvement, advocacy for minority populations, training and education, and direct services, and it will also help him to get involved with professional organizations to receive training to competently provide 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.

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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