

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### PaQuita R. Pullen Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Nashville, TN—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected PaQuita R. Pullen, of Nashville, Tennessee, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Doctoral Counselors (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Doctoral Fellow, Pullen 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 Pullen and the other 19 doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Pullen is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University and is both a graduate of and currently enrolled as a doctoral student in the clinical counseling, teaching and supervision program at Trevecca Nazarene University. Pullen is interested in researching the correlations of racial microaggressions and mental health in minority populations, the experiences of racial/ethnic minority mental health clinicians, mental health symptomatology in African Americans, strategies to minimize and/or eliminate mental health disparities for racial/ethnic minority populations, and the overall well-being of underserved minority populations. She is currently practicing as a licensed professional counselor in Tennessee and is committed to providing multiculturally competent care for her clients and engaging in advocacy efforts that target mental health disparities.

Pullen serves as CEO of her private practice, Ubuntu Counseling & Wellness, which is geared toward the overall well-being of African Americans and other minority populations. Additionally, she has a passion for the professional development of minority counselors and supporting an exemplary standard of multicultural competence for all counselors. This fellowship will help Pullen evolve as a clinician and future counselor educator through the expansion of mental health services for African American and other minority populations while providing multicultural education and training for mental health clinicians. This fellowship will also help her get involved with mentorship, pursue leadership opportunities within professional organizations, and receive further training to continue to provide competent care and training to underserved minority populations and minority mental health clinicians.

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.

## 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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