

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation
3 Terrace Way
Greensboro, NC 27403
336-232-0376
nbccf.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2020

Rhemma D. Payne Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Bloomington, IN—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Rhemma D. Payne, of Bloomington, Indiana, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Doctoral Counselors (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Doctoral Fellow, Payne 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 Payne and the other 19 doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Payne is a graduate of Indiana University and Liberty University, and she is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at Walden University. Payne has a passion for building connection and professional development for underrepresented students in online learning environments through the use of technology, mentorship, and culturally inclusive approaches. She is a graduate assistant for the doctoral peer mentor program at her university, where she mentors incoming doctoral students, acclimating them to student resources.

Additionally, she is a co-curator of Tapestry – Sister Circle, which is a mentorship group designed to support, uplift, and empower African American women in Walden’s counselor education and supervision program. This fellowship will help Payne support and advocate for mental health initiatives within her community that reach underserved populations. Currently, she contributes to the counseling profession as a licensed mental health counselor in a group private practice as well as serving alongside social justice advocates to provide mental health services, consultation, and outreach within her community. This fellowship will also help her continue to explore research interests related to the role of mentorship in online graduate degree settings, explore professional identity development for Black women at predominantly White institutions, and embrace diversity and cultural humility as mechanism(s) for social change in counselor education curricula.

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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