

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 31, 2019

### **NBCC Foundation Awards 30 Master's Counseling Fellowships**

Greensboro, NC – The NBCC Foundation is pleased to announce the 2019 fellowship recipients for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program Mental Health Counseling Master's (NBCC MFP-MHC-M).

The goals of the program are to strengthen the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increase the number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally competent services to underserved minority populations. The Foundation will distribute \$10,000 each to the 30 NBCC MFP-MHC-M fellows to support their education and facilitate their service to underserved minority populations.

The Foundation received over 350 applications for this fellowship opportunity. The Minority Fellowship Program Mental Health Counseling Advisory Council, chaired by 2014 MFP Fellow Dr. Dannette Berksteiner, selected 30 of these applicants to receive the fellowship award. These fellows meet the eligibility requirements of the program, including:

- A commitment to apply for the National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification prior to graduation.
- Enrollment in a master's program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP).
- Demonstrated knowledge of and experience with racially and ethnically diverse populations.
- Commitment to provide mental health services to underserved minority populations for two years post-graduation.

The fellows will work with Foundation staff, the MFP Mental Health Counseling Advisory Council, and mentors to achieve the goals of the program.

The 2019 MFP-MHC-M Fellows are: Ismar Albuquerque Rosario, the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida; Whitney Tashae' Alston, North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina; Marissa Arrigoni, Antioch University New England in Keene, New Hampshire; Jeanneka E Black, The University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee; Jacklyn J. Byrd, Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia; Marissa R. Cano, Portland State University in Portland, Oregon; Krystle Maria Clarke, Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut; Chauntreniece Davis, Louisiana State University Agricultural & Mechanical College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Lisha B. Day, Stetson University in Deland, Florida; Mabel Diaz, The University of Texas at San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas; Jasmine L. Garland McKinney, East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina; Felicia Fonseca Gatewood, Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia; Turesa E. Gilchrist, Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia; Catie Lynn Hardman, George Fox University in Portland, Oregon; Farahdeba Herrawi, Boston University School of Medicine in Boston, Massachusetts; Jennie Ho, The University of Texas at San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas; Sofia Jasani, Portland State University in Portland, Oregon; Haley Tursi Jones, Portland State University in Portland, Oregon; Kanbi Faith Knippling, South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota; Christine Ann McAllister, Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio; Jasmine McGhee, Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee; Maranda Marie Orlando, Rhode Island College in Providence, Rhode Island; Stephanie Richard, the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida; Madelayne Rodriguez, Florida International University in Miami, Florida; Paola Andrea Rojas, Florida International University in Miami, Florida; Fernando Romulo Jr., Adler University in Chicago, Illinois;

Carla Sotomayor, California State University, Fullerton in Fullerton, California; Curissa C. Sutherland-Smith, Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois; Jasmine Kiana Wiggins, North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina; Sydney Rogers Woodward, San Francisco State University in San Francisco, California.

The NBCC MFP-MHC-M is made possible by a grant awarded to the NBCC Foundation by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Foundation administers the MFP-MHC-M, including training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all NCCs. The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 20 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 40 [master's-level fellowships](#) of \$15,000 through the MFP-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-MHC-M application period in fall 2019. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit <http://www.nbccf.org/programs/fellows>.

#### 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 Foundation's mission is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change.

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