

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Jasmine L. Garland McKinney Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Rocky Mount, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Jasmine L. Garland McKinney of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Garland McKinney will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations.

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, including training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all National Certified Counselors (NCCs). The goal of the program is to reduce health disparities and improve behavioral health care outcomes for racially and ethnically diverse populations by increasing the number of available culturally competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC Foundation MFP will distribute up to \$10,000 to Garland McKinney and the other 29 master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Garland McKinney is a graduate of North Carolina State University, in Raleigh, and is currently a master's student in the counselor education program at East Carolina University, in Greenville, North Carolina. Upon graduation, Garland McKinney plans to pursue doctoral studies to obtain her PhD in counseling. Furthermore, Garland McKinney intends to expand upon research discussing the association between minority women, their mental health, and pregnancy complications. Garland McKinney specifically wants to work with women who have experienced perinatal trauma in the realm of maternal mortality, infant loss/miscarriage, and postpartum mental illness. In addition, Garland McKinney would also like to work with marginalized groups including all ethnic minorities and those living in rural and underserved locations. She would like to decrease the stigma associated with mental health help seeking, especially in the African-American community. Earning this fellowship provides Garland McKinney with opportunities to attend conferences and additional training sessions to learn from and collaborate with other counseling professionals in an effort to better serve and advocate for the communities that are close to her heart.

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 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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