

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kalesha D. Jenkins Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Cincinnati, OH—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Kalesha D. Jenkins, of Cincinnati, Ohio, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Jenkins will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority 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 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 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 Jenkins and the other 19 doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Jenkins is a graduate of Seton Hill University, in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and is both a student and graduate of the University of Cincinnati, in Ohio, where she is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in the counselor education and supervision program. Jenkins is currently specializing in multiculturalism and social justice. At this time, she is working on various research, clinical, teaching, and leadership projects across the campus and community. Her research focuses on multicultural competency development and training, particularly the self-awareness development process from cognitive, unconscious, and relational frameworks. In 2017, she received the North Central Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Research Award for her research on “Self-Awareness Development in Multicultural Training.” She currently provides pro-bono mental health counseling and psychotherapy services at a local community mental health agency, Health Resource Center Inc., which serves individuals who are in poverty, indigent, and low-income and suffer from severe mental illness, behavior, and substance abuse disorders.

Jenkins also teaches at two universities: the University of Cincinnati and the Christ College of Nursing and Human Services, teaching Multicultural Counseling, Solution-Focused Brief Therapy, Lifespan Development, and Concepts of Behavior Change. Lastly, she currently serves as an editorial assistant for the Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development, is a Greater Cincinnati Counseling Association board member, is a Chi Sigma Iota: Upsilon Chi Chi Chapter member, and is an Omicron Delta Kappa: Alpha Theta Circle—National Leadership Honor Society active member. This fellowship will assist Jenkins in bridging her multiple roles on her campus, community, and region by becoming more trained and involved in multicultural scholarship, and clinical and advocacy activities. This fellowship will also help Jenkins become more involved with national organizations and receive further training to competently become a multicultural leader who serves underserved, marginalized 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-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP application period in fall 2019. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit 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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