

**PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NBCC Foundation Awards 34 Addictions Counseling Minority Fellowships**

Greensboro, NC—The NBCC Foundation is pleased to announce the 2018 fellowship recipients for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). 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 minority populations. The Foundation will distribute up to \$11,000 to each of the NBCC MFP-AC fellows to support their education and facilitate their addictions counseling service to underserved minority transition-age youth (ages 16–25).

The Minority Fellowship Program Master’s Advisory Council, chaired by 2013 MFP Fellow Dr. David Julius Ford Jr., selected these applicants to receive the fellowship award. These fellows meet the eligibility requirements of the program, including committing to apply for the National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification prior to graduation, being enrolled in a master’s program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP), demonstrating knowledge of and experience with racially and ethnically diverse populations, and committing to provide addictions counseling services to underserved minority transition-age youth (16–25) populations for two years post-graduation. The fellows will work with Foundation staff, the MFP Master’s Advisory Council, and mentors to achieve the goal of the program.

The 2018 MFP-AC Fellows are Sara Z. Abdulrasool, Temple University, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Monique Barber, Boise State University, in Idaho; Amie J. Begg, Sacred Heart University, in Fairfield, Connecticut; Melissa Lynne Belyea, the University of Central Florida, in Orlando; Sarah Voorhees Billingsley, Columbia University, in New York, New York; Shirah Dawn Canaga, the University of Oregon, in Eugene; Jenna Lee Dickerson, the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville; Rasley Micaela Easley, Baylor University, in Waco, Texas; Carmen Melissa Hall-Shorts, John Carroll University, in University Heights, Ohio; Holly Angela Humphrey, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; Sydney Yvonne Kent, Cleveland State University, in Ohio; Shannon Arlene Kratky, Texas Tech University, in Lubbock; Antoinette L. Oliver, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; Shannon N. Perry-Smith, North Carolina Central University, in Durham; Brittany A. Pierce, Schreiner University, in Kerrville, Texas; Sandra Marie Quotson, Youngstown State University, in Ohio; Shaletha L. Richard, The University of Oklahoma, in Norman; Laura Yvette Sandoval, Schreiner University, in Kerrville, Texas; Megan Schilling, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; Christie J. Serns, Ashford University, in Clinton, Iowa; Mary Cullen Servodidio, Belmont University, in Nashville, Tennessee; Sunanda M. Sharma, Boston University, in Massachusetts; Samuel J. Shields, Thomas Edison State University, in Trenton, New Jersey; Chelsea Spears, Western Kentucky University, in Bowling Green; Kathy R. Thomas, Marygrove College, in Detroit, Michigan; Sandi Timmer, Liberty University, in Lynchburg, Virginia; Matthew A. Wallace, Clarion University of Pennsylvania; Barry R. Wallace, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Kiersten P. Wenthold, the University of Dubuque, in Iowa; Daphne C. Wiggins, Eastern University, in St. Davids, Pennsylvania; Jenna D. Willis, The University of North Carolina at Wilmington; Mary E. Woodson, East Carolina University, in Greenville, North Carolina; Laurie Works, the University of Colorado Colorado Springs; and Jonathan Yellowhair, Northern Arizona University, in Flagstaff, Arizona.

The NBCC MFP-AC is made possible by a grant awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the MFP-AC, including training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all NCCs. The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-AC application period in fall 2018. 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 64,000 board-certified counselors in the United States and more than 50 countries. The Foundation's mission is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change.

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