

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LaKeitha A. Poole Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Virginia Beach, VA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected LaKeitha A. Poole, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Poole 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 first awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in August 2012. The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the NBCC MFP, as well as 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 MFP will distribute \$20,000 to Poole and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Poole is a graduate of Florida State University in Tallahassee and of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Poole's research interests include mental health and academic achievement among minority college students, vulnerability and resilience in domestic minority populations, and nontraditional family systems. At Louisiana State University (LSU), Poole works primarily with African-American initiatives while implementing leadership, wellness and other student development programs for all students of color. As a program coordinator and counselor, she provides social, educational and cultural support to students belonging to underrepresented and minority populations. She also manages the LSU African American Cultural Center (AACC), which serves as a "home away from home" for African-American students looking to create and enhance meaningful experiences and find support throughout their time at the university. As an NBCC MFP Fellow, she hopes to sharpen and expand her knowledge and skills serving underrepresented and marginalized populations while increasing the use of mental health and wellness services among these groups.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP application period in September 2015. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit www.nbccf.org.

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 55,000 National 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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