

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation
3 Terrace Way
Greensboro, NC 27403-3660
Phone: 336-232-0376
www.nbccf.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NBCC Foundation Awards 23 Doctoral Counseling Fellowships

Greensboro, NC—The NBCC Foundation is pleased to announce the 2018 fellowship recipients for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). 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 \$460,000 to the 23 NBCC MFP Fellows to support their education and facilitate their service.

The Foundation received nearly 100 applications for this fellowship opportunity. The Minority Fellowship Program Advisory Council (MFPAC), chaired by 2014 MFP Fellow Dr. Susan Branco, selected 23 of these applicants to receive the fellowship award. These fellows meet the eligibility requirements of the program, including holding the National Certified Counselor (NCC) certification, being enrolled in a doctoral 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 mental health and substance abuse services to underserved minority populations. Fellows will work with Foundation staff, the MFPAC, and mentors to achieve the goal of the program.

The 2018 fellows are Nancy Chae, The College of William & Mary, in Williamsburg, Virginia; Raven K. Cokley, The University of Georgia, in Athens; Charmaine L. Conner, the University of North Texas, in Denton; Leslie Contos, Governors State University, in University Park, Illinois; Cierra R. Davis, James Madison University, in Harrisonburg, Virginia; Paulette R. Eason-Williams, Governors State University, in University Park, Illinois; Alfonso Llewellyn Ferguson-Haywood, Montclair State University, in New Jersey; Shana J. Gelin, Syracuse University, in New York; Latonya M. Graham, North Carolina State University, in Raleigh; Latoya Haynes-Thoby, Pennsylvania State University, in State College; Mary E. Huffstead, Georgia State University, in Atlanta; Tameeka L. Hunter, Georgia State University, in Atlanta; Kshipra Jain, The George Washington University, in Washington D.C.; Marlon C. Johnson, The University of Tennessee–Knoxville; Zobaida Laota, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Adrian Lira, Sam Houston State University, in Huntsville, Texas; Citlali Estela Molina-Altamirano, the University of North Texas, in Denton; Chanta (Pressley) Moore, the University of South Carolina, in Columbia; Jasmine Eileen Santiago, Montclair State University, in New Jersey; Kristen M. Sims, Mississippi State University, in Starkville; Shreya Vaishnav, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Donya Wallace, the University of South Carolina, in Columbia; and Kristina L. Wilkerson, Northern Illinois University, in DeKalb.

The NBCC MFP 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, including training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all NCCs. The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y) and 34 master's-level fellowships of up to \$11,000 through the [MFP-Addictions Counselors](#) (MFP-AC). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP 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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