

## Local counseling student to receive educational and training funding in addictions counseling

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Achovia Denise Jones of Winston-Salem for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Jones will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her addictions counseling service to underserved populations.

The NBCC MFP-AC is made possible by a grant awarded to the NBCC Foundation in collaboration with the Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC) by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The NBCC Foundation administers the MFP-AC, including training and collaboration activities, such as webinars, that are open to all board certified counselors. 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 available number of culturally competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC Foundation will distribute \$15,000 to Jones and the other 39 master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Jones is a graduate of Gardner-Webb University and is currently a master's student in the mental health and rehabilitation counseling program at North Carolina A&T State University. Upon graduation, Jones intends to work with adults with substance use-related dual diagnoses and particularly with those who come from minority and low-income communities.



Achovia Denise Jones

Submitted photo

Her goal is to change the social construct and help heal minority families by providing support through the avenues of substance abuse and mental health counseling. Earning this fellowship will allow Jones to attend counseling conferences, learn evidence-based practice to better serve underserved populations, and advocate for the counseling profession.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 20 \$20,000 doctoral fellowships through the MFP and 30 \$10,000 master's-level fellowships through the MFP-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). The NBCC Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-AC application period in fall 2020. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit [nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows](http://nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows).

## Karen Arrington named winner of NAACP Image Award for Literary Excellence

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Karen Arrington, the founder of Miss Black USA, international speaker and world-renowned author, is our most recent winner of the 51st NAACP Image Award for Literary Excellence.

Not only is Arrington the founder of the

winning author, women's empowerment expert and global philanthropist. Her coaching, mentoring and philanthropic work spans over 100,000 hours of service — including her position as a Goodwill Ambassador to Sierra Leone, her work as the co-founder of the first Diabetes Awareness Day in West Africa,

age Award for Outstanding Literary work.

Over the past 20 years, Arrington has helped over 1,000 women step into powerful careers in media, business, medicine and law — transcending hardship, abuse and financial limitations, and transforming their lives and communities.



Karen Arrington

Submitted photo

world's longest running African American female pageant in the country, but she also serves as an ambassador to many African countries on behalf of the United States. Arrington's mission is to change the perception of African American women globally.

Arrington is an award-

and her role as the founder of The Miss Black USA Pageant.

She has been honored by The Lifetime Network, Woman's Day magazine, Jones New York, and other major media outlets for her tireless advocacy for women's health, success and empowerment. Her book, "Your Next Level Life," won a 2020 NAACP Im-

Today, Arrington offers private coaching and global service retreats in Abu Dhabi, Capetown, Greece, Milan, and Bali for ambitious Black women who want to live their best lives — only better.

Arrington is a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc and resides in Washington, D.C.

## NBA

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the necessary precautions, but all they had to do was watch the news to see that restrictions have to be put in place if you want to ensure everyone will follow the rules.

I understand that these are grown men as well as being professional athletes, but they are also human. I also get that most of the players are probably taking the proper precautions to ensure they are not placing themselves in danger, but all it takes is one player to make it risky for everyone else. I was once a young man in my 20s and it would be difficult to make me stay in the house

on a Friday night, even if a pandemic was ravaging our country.

Now try and put yourself in the position of a 25-year-old multi-millionaire and ask if you would want to just stay at home; I doubt most would. This is one of the main reasons why MLB should have been more proactive and saved the players from themselves, so to speak. They often do it with injuries and protecting the confidence of young players, so what makes this scenario any different?

After seeing initial success of the NBA and the failures of MLB, I expect the NFL to learn from both of them and make sure they do the right thing. I

am not sure with the high number of NFL players on a team that you can put the entire league in a "bubble" in one city, but I am sure they can come up with some sort of plan that will work best for them.

The very nature of the sport of football includes being in close proximity to other players, so it is imperative that they get it right. Football is the most popular sport in the country and if the season were to somehow be canceled, it would be catastrophic for players and owners. I am going to lean on the side of optimism and assume the NFL will do the right thing.

## Former teacher named associate dean of education at WSSU

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Dr. Ereka Williams joins Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) as the associate dean of education, quality assurance, and community engagement as

College of Arts, Sciences, Business and Education at WSSU. "I'm confident that her vision and leadership will reestablish WSSU's education program as one of the top tier programs in the country."

travels the country to help two- and four-year institutions with general education, assessment and accreditation. Williams is a consultant for the National Urban Alliance, mentoring and facilitating customized



Dr. Ereka Williams

Submitted photo

of July 1.

Williams, a former public-school teacher, brings more than 22 years of higher education experience and leadership to WSSU. She most recently served as the associate dean for the College of Education at Fayetteville State University (FSU) — her alma mater. While there, Williams led efforts to transform programs for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's move toward the 2019 teacher residency model. She also facilitated reform efforts and protocols to build the unit's sufficiency toward success with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation.

"Dr. Williams has a proven track record for transforming educational programs and developing future educators," says Dr. Darryl Scriven, dean of the

Most of Williams' career has been focused on issues of educational equity and access for parents, teachers and learners of underserved communities. Prior to working at FSU, she served as a professor and the chairperson of the Department of Administration and Instructional Services at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. During her tenure, she earned many distinctions and awards including the 2013-14 Outstanding Teacher of the Year award for the College of Education. Williams also collaborated with colleagues across campus to secure over \$3.9 million in federal funding throughout her time at the institution.

Williams is a nationally trained CAEP leader. She serves as a coach with the National Institute of Learning Outcomes and Assessment, where she

trainings for school districts around the country.

A native of Windsor, N.C., Williams earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in special education from Fayetteville State University. She received her Ph.D. in teacher education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

"Education is an action word that involves spirit, care, passion, competence and confidence," says Williams. "The tireless commitment of the faculty and staff of WSSU's education department has become crystal clear. I'm very excited to join a team that is dedicated to advancing the teaching profession and equipping future educators with the tools needed to be leaders not only in the classroom, but in the community as well."

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