



NATIONAL BOARD FOR
CERTIFIED COUNSELORS[®]
AND AFFILIATES

NBCC and Affiliates Statement Regarding U.S. Supreme Court Decision

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Following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision* regarding the use of race as a factor in higher education admissions, the NBCC Board of Directors writes today to reaffirm NBCC and Affiliates' commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

NBCC's longstanding tradition of supporting and promoting academic excellence in counselor education is grounded in our core belief that, simply put, we learn better and go farther together. We believe that educational communities in which a diversity of perspectives and experiences are engaged provide essential opportunities for counseling students to develop the knowledge, skills, and awareness necessary to serve a diverse client community. As health professionals, counselors must strive to understand the factors that influence the health of all people in our community, and diverse learning communities promote the conversations that lead to this understanding.

Equity and equitable access to education are foundational to our efforts to advance the counseling profession, elevate hope, and promote healing—for all. They allow us to educate counselors in ways leading to culturally responsive care and to foster an understanding and commitment to address health disparities in counseling professionals. Learning together helps health professionals, including counselors, better understand the importance of advancing health equity to ensure support for our most vulnerable clients. NBCC is committed to fostering and supporting learning communities that invite and include people from diverse backgrounds and experiences. The health of our communities depends on this commitment.

Our commitment is not just a promise that we make through words, but a pledge that we live and share. As an organization, we strive to teach and train the next generation of counselors and counselor educators through scientific discovery, clinical engagement, and intentional care for clients of all backgrounds. NBCC will continue to offer professional development inviting the sharing of diverse perspectives and encouraging critical examination of challenging issues. NBCC will continue to promote and administer scholarship and fellowship programs to help intentionally prepare counselors to serve typically underserved populations.

NBCC will continue to support counselor educators as they strive to develop and sustain diverse learning communities in their universities and colleges. Additionally, NBCC will continue to partner with other professional organizations in their efforts to support and promote counselors and increase access to educational opportunities. Finally, NBCC will continue to leverage our relationships, resources, and programs to build a better, more equitable and just world for counselors, their clients, and our communities.

We know that many of you have questions about how the Supreme Court decision will impact our organization, counselor education, and the counseling profession more broadly. Though we do not have all the answers now, we are confident that we will continue to recruit and train the best and brightest talent from varied backgrounds and experiences. We hope counselors, educators, and administrators will use this decision to fuel innovation and action.

NBCC will continue to uphold the values that strengthen who we are as a profession, united in our diversity and dedicated to the equitable and just care of **all** people.

Thank you.



*Supreme Court decision in the matter of # 20-1199, the Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. V. President and Fellows of Harvard College, (together with #21-707, *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. University of North Carolina et al.*), https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/22pdf/20-1199_hgdj.pdf