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Healthcare Leadership Diversity Mentoring Program Launches in North Carolina

One-year program will pair 8 diverse individuals with senior executive mentors

Cary, NC – September 30, 2019 – The North Carolina Healthcare Foundation today announced the first group of participants in a new mentorship program designed to help cultivate a diverse pipeline of leaders for the healthcare field. The one-year program pairs eight high-achieving women and men from underrepresented communities who are already employed in healthcare with five executive leaders from health systems, hospitals and the [North Carolina Healthcare Association](#) who will serve as mentors.

As both national and North Carolina demographics continue to shift, hospital and health system executives increasingly want to develop and promote diverse future leaders who can contribute different perspectives to issues and help to accelerate industry innovation and transformation.

“This new mentoring program reflects our Foundation’s vision to create a North Carolina where high-quality healthcare is equitable and accessible for all. Our state needs diverse healthcare leaders to help advance those objectives, as well as to bring fresh ideas and perspectives to challenging issues like improving rural health and fixing our fragmented behavioral healthcare environment,” said Julia Wacker, Senior Vice President, North Carolina Healthcare Foundation.

“Mentoring is a crucial element to creating and retaining diverse leaders in healthcare,” she added. “This program is an important part of our Foundation’s focus on removing barriers to advancement and supporting talented individuals with learning more about areas such as financial management, staff coaching, negotiating skills and organizational and functional leadership.”

Mentees:

- Alicia Barfield, Director of Community Affairs, Duke Raleigh Hospital
- Alina Nadira Clarke, Strategic Growth and Business Development Analyst, Mission Health/HCA North Carolina Division
- Geard Fossett, Corporate Financial Analyst, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center
- Candace Gaillard, Diabetes Program Manager, Novant Health

- Cinthya Guadalupe Garcia, Quality Improvement Facilitators, Cone Health
- Garland F. Goins, Jr., Director, Revenue and Documentation Integrity, Duke University Health System
- Katherine Jordan, Assistant Director: Human Capital Project Management and Analytics, Duke University Hospital: Private Diagnostic Clinic
- LeVelton Thomas, Program Director, Operations & Management Services, Private Diagnostic Clinics, PLLC || Duke Health

Mentors:

- Phyllis A. Wingate, SVP/President CHS NorthEast, Atrium Health
- Victor Armstrong, Vice President-Behavioral Health, Atrium Health
- Greg Wood, President & CEO, Scotland Health Care System
- Steve Lawler, President & CEO, North Carolina Healthcare Association

About NCHA

Founded in 1918, North Carolina Healthcare Association (NCHA) is the united voice of the North Carolina healthcare community. Representing more than 130 hospitals, health systems, physician groups and other healthcare organizations, NCHA works with our members to improve the health of North Carolina communities by advocating for sound public policies and collaborative partnerships and by providing insights, services, support and education to expand access to high quality, efficient, affordable and integrated health care for all North Carolinians.

About NCHF

The North Carolina Healthcare Foundation is the 501(c)(3) affiliate of the North Carolina Healthcare Association. Established in 1961, the Foundation supports the Association's work in quality improvement, rural healthcare and education, including supporting data-driven initiatives to improve healthcare.