The purpose of the Integrated Behavioral Health & Racial Equity Scholars Program (IBHRES) is to assist up to 108 (100 JMSW and 8 JPhD [Health Equity Fellow, Violence Prevention Fellow, and GCSTOP and Rural Communities Fellow]) social work students in the Joint Programs in Social Work (Joint Graduate Programs for Masters and Doctoral Students between NCAT and UNCG) with stipend support and experiential training that focuses on team-based models of care in integrated and interdisciplinary behavioral and primary care settings.

The goal of IBHRES is to increase the number of behavioral health professionals who are equipped with the knowledge and skills relevant to provide quality behavioral health services in high need and high demand areas for populations across the lifespan. A special focus is placed on children, adolescents, and transitional-aged youth who are at risk for behavioral health disorders, throughout this project. In addition, this project will also address violence prevention and the roles in which intimate partner violence and youth violence affect behavioral health outcomes of people in high need and high demand areas through an understanding of trauma-informed care.

With the use of Intersectionality Theory as a framework, the didactic and experiential training modules and activities will infuse a racial equity lens for serving diverse communities in high need and high demand areas in order to ensure culturally appropriate care for racial and ethnic minority populations. We believe that it is important to infuse competencies that address implicit bias in health care settings and ways in which behavioral health professionals can protect patients from these experiences throughout all training curricula. Finally, the IBHRES Project will also enhance current partnerships and establish new relationships with community-based agencies in order to increase the access of quality behavioral health services in surrounding communities.