**2021 Emergent Leader Award Recipient
Mrs. Allison S. DeLaney BCC-PCHAC**

Allison DeLaney is a Native Floridian and daughter of Chinese Jamaican immigrants. She always knew she wanted to work in healthcare like her mother, an RN, and began as a physical therapist, but fell and stayed in love with chaplaincy. Allison joined NACC in 2005, was granted certification in 2006 and advanced certification in Palliative Care/Hospice in 2020.

After serving as Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator at Hospice House and Support Care of Williamsburg for 8 years, Allison is now a chaplain for the Pediatric, Neonatal and Women’s Health units in the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Medical Center and an Instructor in the Department of Patient Counseling of the College of Health Professions.

She holds a B.S. from the University of Florida, a M.A. from Catholic Theological Union (CTU), and a Master’s in Public Health from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). She completed her Chaplaincy Residency training at Loyola Hospital in Maywood, Illinois 2004-2005. She served the NACC as a certification and PCHAC interviewer and continues to serve on the NACC Research Advisory Panel, and the Certification Appeals Panel for PCHAC.

In her 15-year career as a chaplain, Allison has proven herself to be an exemplary ministerial leader. As an innovator and in her passion for excellence, she has combined her academic interests with clinical expertise conducting interdisciplinary research on clinical outcomes in spiritual care. She was in the first cohort of Transforming Chaplaincy research grantees.

Her home is with her husband (Steve), three boys, and a puppy (Peach) on a “farmette” in Williamsburg, Virginia. She enjoys being outdoors, especially when gardening, hiking with her family, and discovering new parks.

Presently, Allison is working on her first grant funded project: “Space for Wholeness at Work: Nourishing and Sustaining Resilience in Medical Language Interpreters” funded by the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab/ LUCE foundation aimed to promote resiliency in frontline workers during COVID-19. She also serves on the newly formed Pediatric Palliative Task force supported by the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care.