



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Alicia Araba Quayson Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**

Lakewood, NJ—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Alicia Araba Quayson of Lakewood, New Jersey, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Quayson will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations, with a specific focus on transition-age youth (ages 16–25).

The NBCC MFP-Y is made possible by a grant awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in September 2014. The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the NBCC MFP-Y, as well as training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all National Certified Counselors (NCCs). 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 number of available culturally competent behavioral health professionals.



The NBCC MFP will distribute \$8,000 education awards to Quayson and the 30 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Quayson is a graduate of Rider University, in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in the clinical mental health counseling program at Georgian Court University, in Lakewood, New Jersey. Upon graduation, Quayson intends to work with youth and families from different cultural backgrounds and to go where she sees the most need. She will also further develop her Spanish language ability to better work clinically with Hispanic and Latino clients. To increase her cultural competency to treat marginalized populations, she anticipates enrolling in a counselor education and supervision doctoral program once she receives her license as a professional counselor. Quayson is interested in working closely with community institutions to build programs that bring awareness to and explore possible solutions for the prevailing issues that particularly affect ethnic minorities. Earning this fellowship will allow Quayson to concentrate on her goals of participating in trainings for counselors who work with Spanish-speaking clients, attending counseling conferences to learn from other professionals, and increasing community resources. This fellowship will also expand her ability to travel and observe successfully established programs in other parts of the country that could be applied to local communities where she sees a need for intervention and to connect directly with other professionals and stakeholders outside her community.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-Y application period in September 2016. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit [www.nbccf.org](http://www.nbccf.org).

### About the NBCC Foundation

The NBCC Foundation is the nonprofit affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), based in Greensboro, North Carolina. NBCC is the nation's premier professional certification board devoted to credentialing counselors who meet standards for the general and specialty practices of professional counseling. Currently, there are more than 60,000 National Certified Counselors in the United States and more than 50 countries. The Foundation's mission is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change.

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