

PRESS RELEASE

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Bianca Boyd Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Stillwater, OK—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Bianca Boyd of Stillwater, Oklahoma, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Boyd 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 <u>webinars</u>, 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 Boyd and the 30 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Boyd is a graduate of Missouri State University, in Springfield, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in the mental health counseling program at Oklahoma State University, in Stillwater. Upon graduation, Boyd intends to continue her work with transition-age youth minorities, particularly ethnically and culturally diverse populations living in urban settings. She plans to work in a community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment and emergency shelter. She is dedicated to assisting children, adolescents, adults and their families to make a positive difference in their lives. Earning this fellowship will allow Boyd to gain additional training and to attend professional conferences that will assist her in her mission to improve the overall quality of life for transition-age youth minorities through advocacy, education, intervention, prevention and counseling.

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.

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.