

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Brittany Crystal Smith Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



Dallas, TX—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Brittany Crystal Smith of Dallas, Texas, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Smith 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 Smith and the 29 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Smith is a graduate of Winston-Salem State University, in North Carolina, and is currently pursuing a master's in the mental health counseling program at Capella University, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Upon graduation, Smith plans to pursue licensure as a professional counselor to work with minority transition-age youth both within the United States and abroad, specifically those from low-income families who cannot afford or have limited access to mental health services, or who fail to seek services due to stigma. Smith has been afforded opportunities to work with colleagues, cohorts and peers, all committed to maximizing the potential for growth and level of functioning for all. Smith is passionately dedicated to heightening awareness through transparency, authenticity and education. This fellowship prepares and positions Smith to provide mental health services and offer professional and personal insight and advocacy to underserved minority transition-age youth.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 31 master's-level fellowships of up to \$11,000 through the [MFP-Addictions Counselors](#) (MFP-AC). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-Y application period in September 2017. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit [www.nbccf.org/Programs/Scholarships](http://www.nbccf.org/Programs/Scholarships).

#### 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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