

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Carolina Belmares Ortega Awarded \$5,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Albuquerque, NM—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Carolina Belmares Ortega of Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y Fellow, Ortega 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 available number of culturally competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$5,000 to Ortega and the 39 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Ortega is both a student and graduate of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, where she is pursuing a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling. The target population she would like to serve upon graduation includes underserved, low-income, first-generation and primarily Hispanic high school students. Using the funding of the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program to pay for tuition and books, Ortega will be able to continue her service to others even as a student. Currently, her service goals as a student are to continue working toward empowering underrepresented high school students preparing for higher education through teaching, workshop facilitation, student support and research.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-Y application period in September 2015. 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 55,000 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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