

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Christine M. Park Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Hilo, HI—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Christine M. Park, of Hilo, Hawaii, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP fellow, Park will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations.

The NBCC MFP is made possible by a grant first awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in August 2012. The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the NBCC MFP, 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 strengthen the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors providing effective,

culturally competent services to underserved populations.

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$20,000 to Park and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Park is a graduate of Gonzaga University, in Spokane, Washington, and of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at Walden University, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Park is currently interested in researching the lived experiences of at-risk adolescent and adult learners who are disabled, dislocated, disadvantaged and underserved, and who struggle with emotional and behavioral challenges. From her research, she hopes to advance supports for these at-risk populations. Park is currently a transition program coordinator for a community school for adults where one of her roles is to help individuals overcome barriers so that they may make a successful transition to work and further their education. As a program coordinator, she works to develop and implement supports as well as establish partnerships with other community organizations and institutions. This fellowship will help Park to become more involved in her community and provide an opportunity for further involvement and advocacy for underserved, dislocated, disadvantaged and underrepresented communities. The MFP will also advance her experiences through training and opportunities to engage with other professionals and organizations. This opportunity will be used to advance the counseling profession as well as better the lives of others who struggle and are faced with hardship.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y) 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 application period in September 2017. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit www.nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows.

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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