

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Christopher Bernard Townsend Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



High Point, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Christopher Bernard Townsend, of High Point, North Carolina, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP fellow, Townsend will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his 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 Townsend and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Townsend is a graduate of Appalachian State University, in Boone, North Carolina, and is currently a doctoral student in the rehabilitation counseling and rehabilitation counselor education program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, in Greensboro. He is interested in researching the effects of the school counselor's perceptions and interventions on African-American male students who have been identified as having an emotional or behavioral disability. He is currently the lead clinician at the Center for Behavioral Health and Wellness, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. His role has included administrative and clinical efforts to minimize the impact of trauma on the lives of children and adults cross-culturally, through counseling services to the community. He currently provides supportive supervision for master's level counseling interns providing counseling services to Aggie Bounce Back students who are experiencing academic challenges as a result of life stressors and barriers. He is a national and international trainer on various mental health topics. The fellowship will help Townsend become more involved in his research area through direct services, community involvement, advocacy for underserved minority populations, education and training, and outreach activities. This fellowship will also help him to get involved with professional organizations and receive further training to competently provide services to underserved minority populations.

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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