

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Danielle LaCost Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



Merrillan, WI—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Danielle LaCost of Merrillan, Wisconsin, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, LaCost 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 LaCost and the 29 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. LaCost is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh and is currently pursuing a master's in the clinical mental health counseling program at the University of Wisconsin–Stout. Upon graduation, LaCost intends to work with adolescents at risk of being placed on juvenile supervision or facing incarceration and incarcerated persons diagnosed with a mental illness. She would also like to work with underserved and rural populations to address substance abuse and mental health disorders, which are prevalent in small communities that lack resources. This fellowship will afford LaCost an opportunity to complete additional coursework, learn evidence-based practices and attend counseling conferences to foster relationships with other counseling professionals. Through these connections and learning opportunities, LaCost will be able to better serve adolescents and the incarcerated population.

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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