



PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

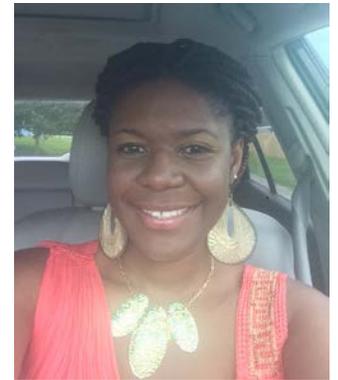
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2016

Elisa A. Niles Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Port Charlotte, FL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Elisa A. Niles, of Port Charlotte, Florida, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Niles 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 Niles and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Niles is a graduate of the University of the Virgin Islands, in St. Thomas, and of Argosy University Sarasota, in Florida, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at Walden University, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Niles is interested in researching the impact of trauma on homelessness and the perceptions of homeless persons toward mental health and trauma. She is particularly interested in conducting research in the Caribbean, such as the United States Virgin Islands and Anguilla. Niles hopes to develop evidence-based practices that are relevant to persons of Caribbean decent, minorities, offenders and ex-offenders, and the homeless. She is passionate about bringing social change to her community and improving mental health services to underserved and marginalized populations through education and training. Niles is currently the clinical director of Southwest Florida Counseling Center, where she provides mental health services to individuals, children and adolescents, and families. This fellowship will help Niles to advocate for social change, develop leadership skills, and receive further training to effectively provide services to underserved minority populations.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP application period in September 2016. 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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