



PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Eric A. Williams Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Fayetteville, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Eric A. Williams, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Williams 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 Williams and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Williams is a graduate of Valdosta State University, in Georgia, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at Regent University, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Williams is currently interested in researching barriers faced by minority families that contribute to delayed screening and diagnosis of their child's autism. Additionally, he is interested in advocating for and developing employment opportunities for those diagnosed with autism upon transition from high school. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Autism Society of Cumberland County, in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and for the Mariposa School for Children with Autism, in Cary, North Carolina. He presented at the annual Licensed Professional Counselors Association of North Carolina (LPCANC) 2015 conference on the topic of "Autism: Caregiving for Caregivers." During his career as a counselor, he has served multiple families and individuals who live with autism. This fellowship will help Williams to engage in more research and training to bring more culture-friendly screening opportunities as well as employment expertise to families in the Fayetteville and Fort Bragg areas in North Carolina. Furthermore, this fellowship will assist Williams in establishing a nonprofit organization to promote community awareness of autism for both children and adults, organize fundraising efforts for families and individuals to attend skills training workshops and conferences, and partner with local businesses to secure employment opportunities for adolescents and adults diagnosed with autism.

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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