

PRESS RELEASE

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Eric Wilson Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Highlands Ranch, CO—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Eric Wilson of Highlands Ranch, Colorado, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Wilson will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his 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 <u>webinars</u>, 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 Wilson and the 30 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Wilson is both a student and graduate of Colorado State University, in Fort Collins, where he is pursuing a master's degree in the counseling and career development program. Upon graduation, Wilson plans to work with adolescents in Northern Colorado, especially those with limited access to mental health services. Wilson is passionate about providing support and guidance to youth as they explore who they are and where they fit in their families, peer groups and community. He believes in helping adolescents overcome the barriers that threaten to hold them back by building on youths' strengths and addressing the roots of the challenges they face. Earning this fellowship will assist Wilson in his professional development so that he can continue to grow into the self-aware, culturally competent counselor that he aspires to be.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-Y application period in September 2016. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit www.nbccf.org.

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.