

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jahaan R. Abdullah Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Chicago, IL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Jahaan R. Abdullah, of Chicago, Illinois, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP fellow, Abdullah 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 Abdullah and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Abdullah is a graduate of Chicago State University, in Illinois, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at Governors State University, in University Park, Illinois. Abdullah's current research interest is two-fold. She is currently interested in researching the satisfaction, strength, stability and well-being of African-American people and, more specifically, factors that impact sexual satisfaction and relationship stability of African-American couples. Further, she has a strong interest in social justice, restorative justice, multicultural counseling, and issues impacting race, ethnic equality and the marginalization of vulnerable groups. The mental health and well-being of marginalized populations of color are important to her. In addition to pursuing her degree, Abdullah is an associate in private practice at Lighthouse Professional Counseling Center and a counselor at Norwegian American Hospital where she currently works serving people of color through crisis intervention and counseling services. This fellowship will help Abdullah become more involved in her research and advocacy areas through direct service, community involvement and advocacy for underserved populations of color, education and training, and outreach activities. This fellowship will also help her increase involvement in professional organizations and garner further training to competently and compassionately provide services to underserved 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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