## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 25, 2017



## Jehanzeb Dar Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Langhorne, PA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Jehanzeb Dar of Langhorne, Pennsylvania, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Dar 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 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 Dar and the 29 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Dar is a graduate of Penn State Abington, in Pennsylvania, and is currently pursuing a master's in the professional clinical counseling program at La Salle University, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After graduation, Dar aspires to work with underserved and marginalized communities, especially transition-age youth who identify as South Asian, Middle Eastern or Muslim. Dar is also committed to implementing intersectional and social justice counseling practices to better serve populations of diverse racial, ethnic, gender, class, religious and sexual orientation backgrounds. This fellowship will not only allow Dar to continue his education and attend counseling conferences but also will enhance his counseling skills and advocacy to provide competent, compassionate and ethical mental health services to people of color, Muslims and other marginalized communities.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 <u>doctoral fellowships</u> through the Minority Fellowship Program and 31 master's-level fellowships of up to \$11,000 through the <u>MFP-Addictions Counselors</u> (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 <u>www.nbccf.org/Programs/Scholarships</u>.

## 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.