



## PRESS RELEASE

*NBCC Foundation*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Keosha M.-B. Branch Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Richmond, VA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Keosha M.-B. Branch, of Richmond, Virginia, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Branch 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 Branch and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Branch is a graduate of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is both a student and graduate of the College of William & Mary, in Williamsburg, Virginia, where she is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in counselor education and supervision. Branch's research interests center on the utilization of positive psychology in offender counseling. She is currently a graduate assistant at the New Horizons Family Counseling Center, where she is the student co-director and family counseling intern. She is also a doctoral intern at Bacon Street Youth and Family Services, where she provides mental health and substance abuse counseling to adolescent and young-adult populations. This fellowship will help Branch in the completion of her dissertation and to further her research with offender populations. Additionally, this fellowship will help her to continue her involvement with professional organizations and engagement in professional development workshops and seminars to further her training in providing 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](http://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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