

## PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation  
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[www.nbccf.org](http://www.nbccf.org)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2017

### **KiJha S. Brown Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



Durham, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected KiJha S. Brown of Durham, North Carolina, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Brown will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her 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 Brown and the 29 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Brown is a graduate of South Carolina State University, in Orangeburg, and is currently pursuing a master's in the clinical mental health counseling program at North Carolina Central University, in Durham. Upon graduation, Brown intends to work with transition-age youth minorities, particularly youth who struggle with behavioral and emotional regulation that place them at an increased risk for contact with the criminal justice system. It is her aspiration to teach these youth proper conflict resolution skills and to foster a supportive environment that reinforces ongoing dialogue with supportive adults to circumvent poor choices that lead to adverse outcomes. Additionally, she plans to work with individuals in underserved communities with the goal of helping transcend societal barriers by offering services and resources to those who are often marginalized and judged based on socioeconomic status, ethnicity, sexual orientation and religion. Accordingly, this fellowship will afford her the opportunity to attend professional conferences that will in turn enhance her skill set and competence as a mental health counselor so that she can actualize her dream of providing informed and quality mental health services to marginalized groups.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program 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-Y application period in September 2017. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit [www.nbccf.org/Programs/Scholarships](http://www.nbccf.org/Programs/Scholarships).

#### 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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**Marisol Bucio Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**

Chicago, IL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Marisol Bucio of Chicago, Illinois, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Bucio will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her 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 Bucio and the 29 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Bucio is a graduate of DePaul University, in Chicago, Illinois, and is currently pursuing a master's in the clinical mental health counseling program at Adler University, in Chicago, Illinois. Upon graduation, Bucio intends to continue working with the Latino population, particularly those who identify as being immigrants and underprivileged. She would like to work with people who are marginalized and unable to easily access mental health services due to a language barrier. This fellowship will allow Bucio to grow personally and professionally and will allow her to establish a stronger professional identity as a Latina counselor. Bucio wishes to advocate for those who are afraid to speak up.

The NBCC MFP-Y is made possible by a grant awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the MFP-Y, including training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all NCCs. The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program 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-Y application period in September 2017. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit [www.nbccf.org/Programs/Scholarships](http://www.nbccf.org/Programs/Scholarships).

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