

PRESS RELEASE

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Michael Bond Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Milwaukee, WI—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Michael Bond of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Bond 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 Bond and the 30 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Bond is both a student and graduate of the University of Wisconsin–Stout, in Menomonie, where he is pursuing a master's degree in the clinical mental health counseling program. Bond is passionate about working with at-risk minority youth living in urban and rural areas. He would love to find new and innovative approaches that could potentially open up these young adults' minds to counseling and seeking help. This fellowship will allow Bond to attend conferences that will enhance his relationships among colleagues and solidify his distinctiveness as a counselor. It will also allow him to learn approaches and techniques that will ultimately help him to be innovative and creative when practicing his own techniques. He strives to be a pioneer in the mental health counseling profession.

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.