

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Michelle D. Mitchell Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Orlando, FL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Michelle D. Mitchell, of Orlando, Florida, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP fellow, Mitchell 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 Mitchell and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Mitchell is a graduate of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, in Butler County, and of Duquesne University, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at the University of Central Florida, in Orlando. Mitchell is currently developing an assessment designed to measure multicultural competence among helping professionals to ensure that culturally responsive services are provided for underserved and underrepresented racial minorities. This work combines Mitchell's research areas of multiculturalism and social justice. She is presently a graduate research assistant and clinical supervisor at the University of Central Florida's Community Counseling and Research Center, where she assists with development of practicum and internship students, challenging them to think critically about the systemic and cultural realities of their clients through supervision and consultation. Mitchell remains active in service through her roles as an American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Holmes Scholar, a treasurer for the Florida Association for Multi-Cultural Counseling and Development, and the newly nominated student representative for the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development. Specifically, the MFP award will allow Mitchell to become more involved in multiculturalism within counseling through instrument development, advocacy for underserved minority populations, education and training. This fellowship will also assist Mitchell in her professional organization involvement and ensure that she is able to disseminate her work at conferences. Such opportunities will permit Mitchell's vision of maximizing the delivery of culturally competent services to underserved minority populations to manifest.

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](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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