

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation
3 Terrace Way
Greensboro, NC 27403-3660
Phone: 336-232-0376
www.nbccf.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nathaniel Mason Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Williamsburg, VA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Nathaniel Mason, of Williamsburg, Virginia, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC fellow, Mason will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his addictions counseling service to underserved minority transition-age youth (ages 16–25).

The NBCC MFP-AC 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-AC, 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 available number of culturally competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC MFP will distribute up to \$11,000 to Mason and the 30 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Mason is a graduate of the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville, and is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health and addictions counseling programs at the College of William & Mary, in Williamsburg, Virginia. After graduating, Mason would like to work for a non-profit agency serving transition-age youth of varied ethnic and racial backgrounds, as well as LGBT youth struggling with life-transitions, substance use and mood-related disorders. In particular, he is interested in working with and advocating for males who do not have a strong support system or an outlet for their frustrations, sadness or hopelessness. This fellowship will help Mason establish a professional persona in the addictions field, provide him with a wealth of scholarly and experiential information about minority populations, and stay up-to-date with counseling practices in an ever-changing, fast-paced world. He plans to pursue a doctorate degree in counselor education to continue his journey in counseling, mentoring, teaching, and reminding others there is always a light at the end of a dark and long tunnel. He hopes to continue incorporating spirituality and meditation as regular practice in his personal and professional life.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC Minority Fellowship Program application period in September 2017. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit 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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