



PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Odis McKinzie Jr. Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Woodbridge, VA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Odis McKinzie Jr., of Woodbridge, Virginia, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, McKinzie will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his 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 McKinzie and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. McKinzie is a graduate of Syracuse University, in New York, and of Marymount University, in Arlington, Virginia, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education program at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, in Blacksburg. Serving the military is McKinzie's passion and purpose, and his research and dissertation will focus on moral injury, which he believes is the root cause of suicides in the military, particularly among veterans returning from war. McKinzie is developing a Warrior Transition Program (WTP) curriculum to help veterans and their family members transition together from war-time experiences. McKinzie plans to use the funds from the fellowship to develop the curriculum and open an office in Springfield, Virginia, accessible to many major military installations. This office will be utilized to serve our warriors and their families with individual and group counseling, substance abuse treatment and family counseling. McKinzie believes that this WTP curriculum will be a model with broad application domestically and abroad. As such, McKinzie plans to incorporate the acquisition of various businesses that will create jobs for veterans and their family members, with future profits being used to fund this program.

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.

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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