

## PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation  
3 Terrace Way  
Greensboro, NC 27403-3660  
Phone: 336-232-0376  
[www.nbccf.org](http://www.nbccf.org)



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### **Rubi Esmeralda Gutierrez Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



San Bruno, CA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Rubi Esmeralda Gutierrez of San Bruno, California, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Gutierrez 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 Gutierrez and the 29 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Gutierrez is a graduate of California State University, Monterey Bay, in Seaside, and is currently pursuing a master's in the marriage, family and child counseling and school counseling programs at San Francisco State University, in California. Upon graduation, Gutierrez will be credentialed in Pupil Personnel Services. She will also continue to accrue hours towards her marriage and family therapy license. Her counseling work is practiced through the lens of social justice, equity and inclusiveness. Gutierrez looks forward to facilitating healing and empowerment through counseling and advocacy for marginalized communities, particularly the Latinx community. This fellowship will allow Gutierrez to attend counseling conferences where she will be able to learn evidence-based practices and network with other like-minded individuals who share a passion for social justice work and the counseling profession.

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.