

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2017

Samantha Airhart-Larraga Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



San Antonio, TX—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Samantha Airhart-Larraga, of San Antonio, Texas, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP fellow, Airhart-Larraga 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 Airhart-Larraga and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Airhart-Larraga is a graduate of the University of Texas at Brownsville and of St. Edward's University, in Austin, Texas, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at The University of Texas at San Antonio. Airhart-Larraga is currently interested in researching how Hispanic counselors in long-term practice develop professional resilience and exploring the impact cultural values and ethnic identity have on the development of professional resilience. The purpose of this research is to help inform the practice of Hispanic counselors to promote counselor resilience and help meet the needs of Hispanic clients in mental health shortage areas. Airhart-Larraga is currently a research assistant at the University of Texas at San Antonio's Sarabia Family Counseling Center where one of her roles is to provide guidance and supervision to practicum students serving minorities through counseling services. This fellowship will help Airhart-Larraga focus more fully on her research agenda through community involvement, advocacy for underserved minority populations, education, training and further involvement in professional organizations.

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.

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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