



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Stephanie L. Hood Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**

Albuquerque, NM—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Stephanie L. Hood, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC fellow, Hood will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her 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 Hood and the 29 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Hood is a graduate of The University of New Mexico, in Albuquerque, and is currently a master's student in the addictions specialization in the clinical mental health counseling program at Marquette University, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Upon graduation, Hood intends to go into practice in Chicago, Illinois in a clinical mental health setting serving adolescents and young adults who struggle with addiction. Hood identifies with a strengths-based foundation and a multicultural lens that will drive her future work to allow her clients to feel hopeful and empowered. Earning this fellowship will assist Hood in further developing her counselor identity through the opportunities given by the Foundation, such as networking opportunities, conference attendance, and mentoring.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-AC application period in September 2016. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit [www.nbccf.org](http://www.nbccf.org).

#### **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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