

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Taqueena S. Quintana Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Gaithersburg, MD—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Taqueena S. Quintana, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP fellow, Quintana 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 Quintana and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Quintana is a graduate of Hunter College of The City University of New York, in New York City, Brooklyn College of The City University of New York, in New York City, and Medaille College, in Buffalo, New York. Quintana is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at Argosy University–Washington, D.C. Quintana is currently interested in researching how school counseling impacts ethnically diverse students with disabilities, the relationship between school counseling and community mental health agencies in underserved communities, and barriers associated with mental health and educational disabilities that prevent non-English speaking families from seeking resources and services. She is currently a professional school counselor with the Prince George's County Public School system, where in one of her roles she assists African-American and Latino parents and families obtain special education, Section 504 and community mental health services for students with disabilities. Quintana is also an internship student serving as a teaching assistant for emerging clinical mental health counselors in the area of assessment. This fellowship will help Quintana to become more involved in her research areas through direct service, community involvement, advocacy for underserved minority students with disabilities, education and training, and outreach activities. This fellowship will also help her to get involved with professional organizations and receive further training to competently provide services to underserved minority students with disabilities.

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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