



PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tonya Gardner Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Portsmouth, VA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Tonya Gardner of Portsmouth, Virginia, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Gardner 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 Gardner and the 30 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Gardner is a graduate of George Mason University, in Fairfax, Virginia, and of Norfolk State University, in Virginia, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in the mental health counseling program at Old Dominion University, in Norfolk, Virginia. Gardner intends to work with at-risk minority youth who are typically underserved and who are not able to access mental health services to address generational problems of trauma, abuse or grief and loss. Gardner will utilize this fellowship to advance her knowledge and abilities by connecting with her mentor and supervisor to build her skill level and establish a stronger professional identity.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-Y application period in September 2016. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit 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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