

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation 3 Terrace Way Greensboro, NC 27403-3660 Phone: 336-232-0376 www.nbccf.org

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Tylanna Marley Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Jackson, MS—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Tylanna Marley of Jackson, Mississippi, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Marley 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 <u>webinars</u>, 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 Marley and the 30 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Marley is a graduate of Jackson State University, in Mississippi, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in the mental health counseling program at Mississippi College, in Clinton. Upon graduation, Marley intends to work with youth minorities who have experienced trauma and abuse and live in rural areas where mental health treatment is unavailable. Marley would like to be the voice for those who can't speak for themselves and she plans on being a community leader and ambassador for underserved populations. She looks forward to traveling around the world to serve underrepresented minorities. Earning this fellowship will help Marley be a driving force for her community, where there are few opportunities and resources. This fellowship will help her succeed as a culturally competent professional counselor, bolster her knowledge and expertise, and help her empower others to transform their lives through research and practical applications.

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 <u>www.nbccf.org</u>.

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.

