

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Adrian Lira Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Houston, TX—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Adrian Lira, of Houston, Texas, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Lira will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his 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 Lira and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Lira is a graduate of The University of Texas at El Paso, and of The University of Houston-Clear Lake, in Texas, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education program at Sam Houston State University, in Huntsville, Texas. Lira is interested in researching the linguistic competence of counselors providing multilingual counseling to first- and second-generation immigrants. Through his research in the counselor education doctoral program at Sam Houston State University, he desires to increase counselors' understanding of the culture and needs of Hispanic immigrants and their families. He currently serves as a clinical manager and senior bilingual clinician at Family Houston, a behavioral health organization that provides counseling to English- and Spanish-speaking children, adolescents, and adults. This fellowship will help Lira with training the next generation of counselors to provide multicultural and multilingual services to ethnic minorities. It will also help him to address the needs of this underserved population by increasing attention to the unique needs of immigrants, providing culturally-appropriate counseling services, and increasing the knowledge base of practicing clinicians.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y) and 34 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 fall 2018. 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 64,000 board-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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