

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kristina L. Wilkerson Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Chicago, IL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Kristina L. Wilkerson, of Chicago, Illinois, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Wilkerson 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 Wilkerson and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Wilkerson is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and of Adler University in Chicago, Illinois, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at Northern Illinois University, in DeKalb. Wilkerson is currently interested in researching the relationship between counselor education, supervision, and multicultural counseling competency in novice counselors. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor practicing in the city of Chicago and in rural Illinois. In Wilkerson's counseling practice, she provides individual and family counseling to diverse clientele. Additionally, Wilkerson is an adjunct faculty member at National Louis University, where she provides counselor education in subjects such as counseling theory, counseling skills, psychological assessment, and multicultural counseling. Wilkerson is also currently a graduate assistant in the Office of the Ombudsman at Northern Illinois University, where one of her roles is to serve undergraduate and graduate students in developing skills to advocate for themselves when experiencing racial, gender, or sexual orientation harassment or discrimination. Wilkerson is also a leader in two professional organizations as current president-elect of the Black Counselors Association, Illinois Chapter and the Illinois Counselors for Social Justice. This fellowship will assist Wilkerson in becoming more involved in her research area through direct service, receiving mentorship in her clinical and academic roles, and completing her doctoral studies at Northern Illinois University. Additionally, this fellowship will help Wilkerson become involved with professional organizations and receive further training in her continued efforts to assist underserved minority populations.

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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