

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jessica Sims Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Cullowhee, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Jessica Sims, of Prospect Park, New Jersey, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Sims will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her addictions counseling service to underserved minority transition-age youth (ages 16–25).



The NBCC MFP-AC 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-AC, 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 available number of culturally competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$11,000 to Sims and the other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Sims is a graduate of Lander University in Greenwood, South Carolina, and is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling program at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina. Her ultimate career goal is to become an effective counselor in areas of underserved populations. Specifically, she is interested in working with children and families with a specialty in addictions. She believes that this fellowship has brought her closer to achieving this goal and she vows to work hard to bridge the gap in mental health disparities.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-AC application period in September 2015. 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 55,000 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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