



PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rachel Callicoat Receives Rural Scholarship From the NBCC Foundation

Durant, OK—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. (NBCC), recently awarded a \$5,000 2015 NBCC Foundation rural scholarship to Rachel Callicoat, of Atoka, Oklahoma. The rural scholarship is awarded to counseling students who commit to practicing in rural areas upon graduation.

The mission of the NBCC Foundation is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change. The Foundation created the rural scholarship in 2009 to improve access to counseling services in rural communities, which suffer disproportionately from a lack of mental health care. Nearly 40 students from across the country applied for the five 2015 rural scholarships.

As a rural scholarship recipient, Callicoat will receive \$5,000 to support her counseling education and recognize her commitment to the underserved. Callicoat is both a student and graduate of Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, where she is currently pursuing a master's in clinical mental health counseling. She has a passion for the older population and she hopes to help begin programs within inpatient facilities that include group and animal-assisted therapy. She wants to be sure her clients know that they are important, valuable, and a wellspring of knowledge and inspiration. This scholarship will allow her to extend research she began in her undergraduate program that sparked her passion for this population, the power of animal interaction, and research in the profession of counseling itself.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded five \$5,000 military scholarships to increase the number of counselors serving fellow military personnel, veterans and their families. The Foundation plans to continue offering scholarships to increase the number of counselors in the areas where they are needed most and will open the next application period in September 2015. For more information or to make a gift in support of the Foundation's mission, please visit <http://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 (NCCs) 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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