



## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2016

### Alexandria Kendra Hayes Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Phenix City, AL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Alexandria Kendra Hayes, of Phenix City, Alabama, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Hayes 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 Hayes and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Hayes is a graduate of Auburn University, in Alabama, and of Troy University, in Phenix City, Alabama, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at Argosy University Atlanta, in Georgia. Hayes is interested in bridging gaps in access to substance abuse and mental health treatment by placing herself at the forefront of the profession in order to help meet her clients' needs and by educating other counselors. Her research is focused on trauma competencies among addiction counselors and applying the results from this qualitative study to indigent and African-American populations. She currently serves as a liaison identifying clients' unique needs, linking them with community resources and effectively advocating on their behalf. Additionally, Hayes is involved with civic engagement by leading and educating the community on the needs of individuals who suffer with addiction. Her plan is to continue to help individuals reach their full potential despite their race and/or ethnicity and to immerse herself in presenting and educating on effective tactics for treating minority populations suffering with substance abuse issues. This fellowship will afford Hayes a better opportunity to engage in professional development through conferences, consultation support, and trainings in order to efficiently and competently serve the underprivileged. Moreover, this fellowship will assist her involvement with civic engagement, advocacy, and expanding opportunities to better serve minority populations.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP application period in September 2016. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit [www.nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows](http://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 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.

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