

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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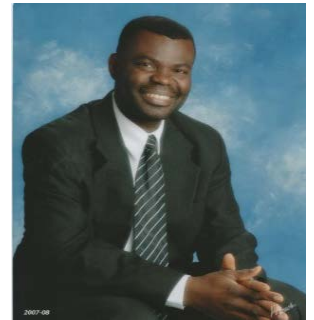
www.nbccf.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2015

Alphonsus Ekele Ngwadam Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Minneapolis, MN—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Alphonsus Ekele Ngwadam, of Garner, North Carolina, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Ngwadam 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 Ngwadam and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Ngwadam is a graduate of North Carolina State University in Raleigh, the University of Phoenix in Arizona, and Capella University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Ngwadam is currently a doctoral student in the human services program with a specialization in counseling studies at Capella University. His motivation to apply for this fellowship was to improve the quality of mental health services received by minority children in underserved and underprivileged communities. As a crisis prevention and intervention school counselor and community-based mental health therapist, he has more than 10 years of experience working with this population in Wake and Johnston County Schools in North Carolina. His goal as a Fellow is to create and improve a therapeutic learning center for the utilization of mental health services in schools and communities in North Carolina. He would also like to take his experience internationally to create, provide and evaluate programs for mental health services within the school system and communities in Nigeria, West Africa, where he was born and raised. Growing up in Nigerian schools, he watched students with mental health issues struggle to make good grades with little or no assistance, leading most of them to drop out of school. Ngwadam believes that a therapeutic leaning center will build a bridge between clinical mental health and school counseling to ensure that children of underserved populations receive the clinical support needed while in an academic setting. The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP 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.