

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Eric C. Cortez Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Washington, D.C.—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Eric C. Cortez of Washington, D.C., for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Cortez will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his service to underserved minority populations, with a specific focus on transition-age youth (ages 16–25).

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

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$8,000 education awards to Cortez and the 29 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Cortez is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, and is currently pursuing a master's in the school counseling program at the George Washington University, in Washington, D.C. Upon graduation, Cortez intends to work in an urban public high school. He would like to work with ethnic/racial minority students to help them achieve academically and grow holistically. This fellowship will allow Cortez to build a stronger professional identity, build a better network and learn best practices to help him establish a strong counseling services program in the school that he works in.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 31 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-Y application period in September 2017. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit [www.nbccf.org/Programs/Scholarships](http://www.nbccf.org/Programs/Scholarships).

#### 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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