

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation
3 Terrace Way
Greensboro, NC 27403-3660
Phone: 336-232-0376
www.nbccf.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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George James Ramos Jr. Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Yonkers, NY—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected George James Ramos Jr., of Yonkers, New York, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP fellow, Ramos Jr. 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 Ramos and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Ramos is a graduate of State University of New York at New Paltz and of Nyack College, in South Nyack, New York, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at the University of the Cumberlands, in Williamsburg, Kentucky. Ramos is currently interested in researching the impact of training in motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral therapy on counselor comfort and effectiveness with clients who are diagnosed with co-occurring disorders. Currently, Ramos is a school mental health consultant in the Bronx, New York, and is assigned to 12 schools. Many of the schools he consults have large African-American and Latino populations. He also has a private practice in which he performs in-home counseling at low cost to families of color in New York City and Westchester County. Ramos facilitates mental health conferences in local churches, many with predominately Latino congregants, to challenge stigmas and raise awareness. He is also the president of Best Practice Trainers Inc., which is a training/research group that focuses on substance abuse and mental health comorbidity. This fellowship will also allow Ramos to continue research with Best Practice Trainers Inc. in order to publish their findings and provide clinicians with information on best practice for clients with co-occurring disorders. Hopefully, the research can be implemented and applied to clinicians who are working with clients of color who are diagnosed with co-occurring disorders and are looking to provide the best practice.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y) 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 application period in September 2017. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit 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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