



PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

3 Terrace Way

Greensboro, NC 27403-3660

Phone: 336-232-0376

www.nbccf.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2016

Jasmaine Ataga Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Atlanta, GA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Jasmaine Ataga of Atlanta, Georgia, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Ataga will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her 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 Ataga and the 30 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Ataga is a graduate of Valdosta State University, in Georgia, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in the clinical mental health counseling program at Georgia State University, in Atlanta. Upon graduation, Ataga intends to work with minority adolescents and undocumented citizens, particularly those who have experienced sexual trauma. She would also like to work with people who are often marginalized, such as those who identify within the gender and sexual/affectional minority spectrum and those in developing countries where mental health services can be implemented with cultural customs. Earning this fellowship will allow Ataga to attend counseling conferences to establish a stronger professional identity, participate in research opportunities geared towards these minority populations, and to learn evidence-based practices to better serve underserved populations and advocate for the counseling profession.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-Y application period in September 2016. 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 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.

###