

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Jennifer Denine Smith Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



Wadesboro, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Jennifer Denine Smith, of Wadesboro, North Carolina, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP fellow, Smith 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 Smith and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Smith is a graduate of Wingate University, in North Carolina, and Webster University, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at Argosy University–Atlanta, in Georgia. Smith is a licensed professional counselor in North Carolina and a National Certified Counselor. Smith is currently interested in investigating the research to practice gap that exists among school-aged students diagnosed with serious behavioral and emotional disorders (BED) and academic success, the role of the school counselor, and best practices when working with students presenting with behavioral and emotional challenges. She is currently a military and family life counselor, where her role is providing counseling to assist service members and their families with challenges faced throughout the cycle of deployment—from leaving their loved ones and possibly living and working in harm's way to reintegrating with their family and community. Smith also provides short-term counseling and support for a range of issues including: crisis intervention, stress management, child and youth behavioral issues, grief, and other individual and family issues. This fellowship will enable Smith to continue her scholarly efforts in advocating for and educating mental health professionals on strengths-based initiatives when working within the BED and military populations. Further, it will afford Smith the opportunity to continue presenting at professional conferences on the needs of the aforementioned vulnerable populations. This fellowship will also assist Smith with funding to start a private practice in a rural area in Eastern North Carolina that will provide services that transcend all ethnicities as well as offer clinical mental health counseling to underserved individuals. Finally, this fellowship will assist Smith to receive further training to competently provide services to underserved minority populations.

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](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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