

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Julie Smith Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Fargo, ND—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Julie Smith, of Ponsford, Minnesota, 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 Minnesota State University-Moorhead and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at North Dakota State University in Fargo. She is currently working on the White Earth Indian Reservation, and her research area is utilizing cultural adaptations in evidence-based trauma models to meet the needs of Native American youth. The fellowship will allow her to expand her knowledge in the area of research. In addition, it will also afford her the time to spend with cultural healers that help her on her journey of incorporating cultural healing practices into trauma therapy.

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](http://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.

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