



## PRESS RELEASE

*NBCC Foundation*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Kassy A. Saepunh Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Sacramento, CA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Kassy A. Saepunh of Sacramento, California, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Saepunh 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 Saepunh and the 30 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Saepunh is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles and is currently pursuing a master's degree in the marriage, family, and child counseling program at California State University, in Sacramento. Saepunh plans on working with minority transition-age youth after completion of her graduate program, with an emphasis on individuals from underserved and underrepresented communities. Saepunh discovered her passion to serve and work with underserved and underrepresented groups as an undergraduate student activist and peer counselor. She realized that there are a large number of minority groups that are underserved, underrepresented and unnoticed in the mental health system. Her goal, with the help of the fellowship, is to follow her passion to not only make counseling approachable and accessible for these communities, but to also spread awareness of these communities and their mental health issues.

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](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 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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