



## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 8, 2016

### Lavender S. Williams Receives Rural Scholarship Funded by NBCC and Affiliates Annual Staff Giving Campaign

Greensboro, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. (NBCC), recently awarded a \$5,000 2016 NBCC Foundation rural scholarship to Lavender S. Williams, of Danville, Virginia. The rural scholarship is awarded to counseling students who commit to practicing in rural areas upon graduation.



From Left: NBCC and Affiliates President and CEO Dr. Thomas W. Clawson, Rural Scholar Lavender Williams, and NBCC Foundation Executive Director Sherry L. Allen.

Williams' award was funded by the Family First campaign, an annual staff giving campaign the Foundation organizes to engage NBCC and Affiliates staff in the Foundation's mission. The goal of the campaign is to attain 100 percent staff participation. In August, Williams visited NBCC headquarters, in Greensboro, North Carolina, for a brief award ceremony and to meet the NBCC and Affiliates staff.

As a rural scholarship recipient, Williams will receive \$5,000 to support her counseling education and recognize her commitment to the underserved. A graduate of Lynchburg College, in Virginia, Williams is currently a master's student in the couple and family counseling program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Earning this scholarship will allow Williams to further expand her knowledge of the profession of counseling and develop her professional identity in order to best serve her future clients.

Upon graduation, Williams intends to work with families lacking access to mental health services in Danville, Virginia, and surrounding areas. She hopes to use her training and education to foster dialogue within families to improve family systems. She also plans to work with athletes, particularly in middle and high schools, on improving performance and character development on and off the field.

The NBCC Foundation created the rural scholarship in 2009 to improve access to counseling services in rural communities, which suffer disproportionately from a lack of mental health care. The Foundation plans to continue offering scholarships to increase the number of counselors in the areas where they are needed most and will open the next application period in September 2017. For more information or to make a gift in support of the Foundation's mission, 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 (NCCs) 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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