

PRESS RELEASE

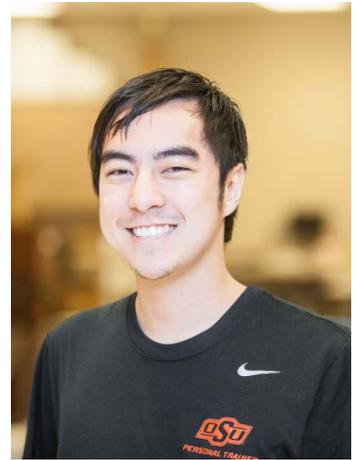
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 29, 2015

Lawrence Richardson Awarded \$5,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Stillwater, OK—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Lawrence Richardson of Stillwater, Oklahoma, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y Fellow, Richardson will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his 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 available number of culturally competent behavioral health professionals.



The NBCC MFP will distribute \$5,000 to Richardson and the 39 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Richardson is both a student and graduate of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, where he is pursuing a master's degree in mental health counseling. Upon graduation, Richardson intends to work with transition-age youth minorities, particularly those who identify within the gender and sexual/affectional minority spectrum. He would also like to work with people who are often marginalized, such as ethnic minorities and people living in rural areas, where mental health services are typically lacking. Earning this fellowship will allow Richardson to attend counseling conferences to establish a stronger professional identity as a counselor, 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 2015. 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 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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