

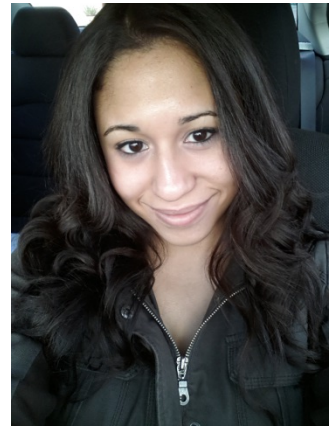
## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### Marisol Velez Awarded \$5,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Scranton, PA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Marisol Velez of Hanover Township, Pennsylvania, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y Fellow, Velez 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 available number of culturally competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$5,000 to Velez and the 39 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Velez is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University in State College and is both a student and graduate of Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where she is pursuing a master's degree in mental health counseling. Because of her bilingual ability, Velez intends to serve the minority Spanish-speaking population upon graduation. She is excited about the opportunities the fellowship will provide, such as linking her to other professionals who could help her broaden her knowledge base and her ability to expand mental health services for the Spanish-speaking population.

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](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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