

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Matthew R. Smith Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



Waxhaw, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Matthew R. Smith, of Waxhaw, North Carolina, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC fellow, Smith will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his addictions counseling service to underserved minority transition-age youth (ages 16–25).

The NBCC MFP-AC 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-AC, 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 up to \$11,000 to Smith and the 30 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Smith is a graduate of Campbell University, in Buies Creek, North Carolina, and of Vanderbilt University, in Nashville, Tennessee, and is currently a master's student in the addictions counseling program at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Upon graduation, Smith plans to work with transition-age youth and minorities struggling with issues of addiction in North Carolina. In his past work and clinical experiences, he has come to see the vital role that addictions counselors stand to play in facilitating hope and healing for young people with substance abuse problems, their loved ones, and their local communities. He is especially committed to implementing and advocating for alternatives to traditional, shame-based treatment models in the field of addictions counseling. For Smith, this fellowship represents an invaluable opportunity for dialogue and learning with peers and treatment professionals who share his commitment to helping members of underserved populations overcome substance abuse issues and achieve wellness.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC Minority Fellowship Program application period in September 2017. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit [www.nbccf.org/programs/scholarships](http://www.nbccf.org/programs/scholarships).

#### 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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