

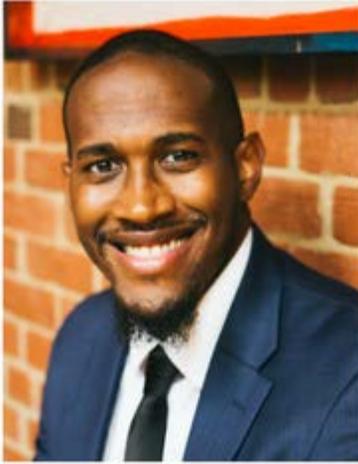
PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 20, 2017

Michael M. Wray Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Philadelphia, PA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Michael M. Wray, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC fellow, Wray 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 Wray and the 17 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Wray is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, in Pennsylvania, and is currently a master's student in the school counseling program at North Carolina Central University, in Durham. Upon graduation, Wray intends to work as a school counselor with middle school- or high school-aged children, in the hopes of addressing barriers to success for marginalized, minority youth. Recent legislation in the state of North Carolina, such as HB-2, has made him more conscious of LGBT issues, highlighting a need for advocacy and allyship for students in this population. One of Wray's professional priorities is addiction prevention by addressing adolescent drug use, and he intends to pursue future licensure as a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist (LCAS); earning this fellowship will allow him greater access to resources that will aid in attaining this goal. Furthermore, it will also allow Wray to network with other men of color, with the hope of addressing the underrepresentation of minority males in mental health, particularly in the profession of school counseling.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program, 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y) program, and 31 additional [MFP-AC](#) fellowships this year. The Foundation will 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.

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 63,000 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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