



PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Natasha Jones Kinto Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Pembroke, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Natasha Jones Kinto, of Pembroke, North Carolina, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC fellow, Kinto will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her 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 Kinto and the 29 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Kinto is both a student and graduate of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, where she is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling program. Kinto plans to provide counseling services to Native American youth in North Carolina. She wants to help prevent drug use among adolescents within her tribal community and to provide them with healthy alternatives to using alcohol and other drugs. With the fellowship from the NBCC Foundation, she will have access to a network of mentors as well as educational and advocacy events that are not usually found in rural areas. Kinto will be able to continue her training to address the stigma of addiction and barriers to recovery in her Native American community.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-AC application period in September 2016. 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 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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