

## PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation  
3 Terrace Way  
Greensboro, NC 27403-3660  
Phone: 336-232-0376  
[www.nbccf.org](http://www.nbccf.org)



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### Patricia Martelly Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Charlotte, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Patricia Martelly of Charlotte, North Carolina, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Martelly 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 number of available culturally competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$8,000 education awards to Martelly and the 29 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Martelly is a graduate of Winthrop University, in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and is currently pursuing a master's in the school counseling program at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Upon graduation, Martelly intends to work with youth minorities in a diverse school with a large minority spectrum. She would also like to work with people who are often marginalized, such as ethnic minorities, and work in areas where mental health services are typically lacking. Having worked in the human services field for 10 years providing services to adult clients, she is now compelled to place her focus on youth to assist in prevention practices. This fellowship will allow Martelly 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 NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 31 master's-level fellowships of up to \$11,000 through the [MFP-Addictions Counselors](#) (MFP-AC). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-Y 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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