



PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sarah Marie James Receives Rural Scholarship From the NBCC Foundation

Cross Lanes, WV—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. (NBCC), recently awarded a \$5,000 2016 NBCC Foundation rural scholarship to Sarah Marie James, of Cross Lanes, West Virginia. The rural scholarship is awarded to counseling students who commit to practicing in rural areas upon graduation.

The mission of the NBCC Foundation is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change. The Foundation created the rural scholarship in 2009 to improve access to counseling services in rural communities, which suffer disproportionately from a lack of mental health care. More than 40 students from across the country applied for the five 2016 rural scholarships.



As a rural scholarship recipient, James will receive \$5,000 to support her counseling education and recognize her commitment to the underserved. A graduate of Xavier University, in Cincinnati, Ohio, James is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling program at Appalachian State University, in Boone, North Carolina. James has a deep love for the Appalachian mountains and their people. Upon graduation, she plans to pursue licensure as both a professional counselor and a clinical addictions specialist. She is passionate about helping people in their journeys of addiction recovery and is interested in how mental health and addiction issues specifically affect the central Appalachian region. This scholarship will help James relieve some of her student debt so that she may focus on her own self-care and building a sustainable counseling career.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded five \$5,000 military scholarships to increase the number of counselors serving fellow military personnel, veterans and their families. The Foundation plans to continue offering scholarships to increase the number of counselors in the areas where they are needed most and will open the next application period in September 2016. For more information or to make a gift in support of the Foundation's mission, 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 (NCCs) 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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