

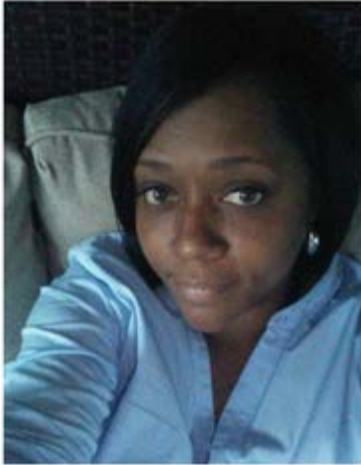
PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 20, 2017

Shara Darnell Finklea Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Dayton, OH—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Shara Darnell Finklea, of Dayton, Ohio, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC fellow, Finklea 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 Finklea and the 17 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Finklea is both a student and graduate of Wilberforce University, in Ohio, where she is currently pursuing a master's in rehabilitation counseling. Earning this fellowship will serve as a stepping stone for Finklea to reach the goal of offering stability, hope, and opportunity for youth who have been struggling with addiction and/or mental illness.

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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