

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Shekila Melchior Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Blacksburg, VA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Shekila Melchior, of Blacksburg, Virginia, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Melchior will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations.



The NBCC MFP is made possible by a grant first awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in August 2012. The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the NBCC MFP, 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 strengthen the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally competent services to underserved populations.

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$20,000 to Melchior and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Melchior is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg. She serves on the minority recruitment and retention committee with local public schools. She is also the communications coordinator for MHC Dreamers, an organization that advocates for and works with undocumented individuals and families as well as Hispanic and Latino populations. Her research interests include social justice and advocacy as a professional school counselor; international counseling, specifically with women who are victims of the sex trade industry and various populations in third-world nations; and trauma sensitivity in schools, specifically with underserved students. She strives to travel internationally to work with various populations.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP application period in September 2015. 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 55,000 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.