



PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Simone F. Smith Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Trenton, NJ—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Simone F. Smith, of Trenton, New Jersey, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC fellow, Smith 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 Smith and the 29 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Smith is a graduate of Rutgers University, in New Brunswick, New Jersey and is currently a master's student in the school counseling program at The College of New Jersey, in Trenton. Upon graduation, Smith intends to work with underserved youth populations, particularly those representing minority populations. She would also like to work with those who identify as part of a marginalized population, particularly those who reside in an urban or rural setting. Earning this fellowship will allow Smith to be able to attend multiple counseling conferences in order to be able to bring mental health awareness to these specific populations as well as advocate for the needs of those who are marginalized in society.

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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