

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Tessa R. Edmonds Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



Norfolk, VA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Tessa R. Edmonds, of Norfolk, Virginia, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC fellow, Edmonds 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 Edmonds and the 17 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Edmonds is both a student and graduate of Norfolk State University, in Virginia, where she is currently pursuing a master's in community counseling. After graduation, Edmonds would like to pursue a career where she will work with individuals with substance abuse disorders, specifically with adolescents and adults. She would like to work within the multicultural population, mainly with individuals in ethnic communities who have mental health disorders. By working with the underserved communities, Edmonds will gain experience to become an effectual counselor. Earning this fellowship will allow Edmonds to expand her education and build a stronger foundation professionally. This fellowship will also allow Edmonds to achieve a wide range of knowledge in the areas of substance abuse and mental health.

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](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 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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