

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Theresa M. Robertson Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Glen Rock, PA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Theresa M. Robertson, of Glen Rock, Pennsylvania, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP fellow, Robertson 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 Robertson and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Robertson is a graduate of Morgan State University, in Baltimore, Maryland, the University of Baltimore, in Maryland, and Loyola University Maryland, in Baltimore. Robertson is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at Loyola University Maryland. Robertson will be conducting research to investigate the ability of compassion-focused therapy (CFT) to improve several negative psychological and spiritual consequences that arise as a result of the stigmatization associated with being on the public sex offender registry. Effective coping strategies to address the effects of stigmatization have the promise of improving emotional and spiritual conditions for registrants and contributing to successful community re-entry. Robertson currently serves in a volunteer capacity to encourage legislative reform of sex offender policies, such as public registration, that have been identified as ineffective in improving public safety, and advocates for policies and counseling strategies that will encourage prevention of sexual abuse. The NBCC MFP fellowship will provide Robertson with the financial resources to offer CFT to 60 registrants who have an interest in participating in the study. Robertson is hopeful that the results of the study will support plans to expand these services in the future to include registrants as well as their family members. Importantly, Robertson is looking forward to receiving additional training in best-practices in counseling for underserved populations.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y) and 31 master's-level fellowships of up to \$11,000 through the [MFP-Addictions Counselors](#) (MFP-AC). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP application period in September 2017. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit [www.nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows](http://www.nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows).

#### 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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