

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vanessa Renee Placeres Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Atlanta, GA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Vanessa Renee Placeres, of Atlanta, Georgia, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP fellow, Placeres 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 Placeres and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Placeres is a graduate of California State University, Fresno, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at Georgia State University, in Atlanta. Placeres' research dovetails with a strong commitment to working to reduce health disparities for people of color and particularly Hispanic/Latino individuals. Placeres has co-authored several articles that address the issues of minority populations, especially focusing on strengths-based research. Placeres is currently expanding on previous research and focusing on intergroup forgiveness as it pertains to the recent Charleston shooting. In particular, Placeres is investigating how African-American/Black undergraduate students have experienced discrimination and their ability to cope and forgive race-related offenses. Placeres is currently practicing at the Clinic for Education, Treatment, and Prevention of Addiction (CETPA) as a licensed professional counselor working with children and adolescents. CETPA is a private, nonprofit counseling agency that specializes in mental health, addiction treatment and advocacy for the Latino community in Georgia. In the past three years, Placeres has advocated for clients and their families during immigration hearings and educational meetings, and bridged the language barrier between the population and service providers. The fellowship will provide Placeres the opportunity to collaborate and receive mentorship from others who share a similar commitment to social justice and advocacy. This fellowship will also provide her opportunities to become more involved in advocating for marginalized populations and provide her training and education she can incorporate into her clinical work. Placeres' ultimate goals for this fellowship program align with her broader sense of purpose to serve and improve quality of services to underserved minority 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.

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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