

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yolanda Martinez-Pineda Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Minneapolis, MN—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Yolanda Martinez-Pineda of Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y fellow, Martinez-Pineda will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations, with a specific focus on transition-age youth (ages 16–25).

The NBCC MFP-Y 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-Y, 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 number of available culturally competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$8,000 education awards to Martinez-Pineda and the 29 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Martinez-Pineda is a graduate of the University of St. Thomas, in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and is currently pursuing a master's in the professional school counseling program at Minnesota State University, in Mankato. Upon graduation, Martinez-Pineda hopes to serve young adults struggling with mental health in high school, particularly underserved ethnic minorities in Minneapolis, Minnesota, since Minnesota has one of the worst education and economic gaps for populations of color. Martinez-Pineda hopes to combat the stigma of obtaining mental health support so that communities can teach their vulnerable youth how to cope and thrive daily. This fellowship will allow Martinez-Pineda to finish her degree and connect with professional mental health practitioners who have made strides in their own communities.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program 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-Y application period in September 2017. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit 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 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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