

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Andrea Paola Rivera Rios Awarded \$15,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Carolina, PR—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Andrea Paola Rivera Rios, of Carolina, Puerto Rico, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Rivera will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her addictions counseling service to underserved populations.

The NBCC MFP-AC is made possible by a grant awarded to the NBCC Foundation in collaboration with the Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC) by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The NBCC Foundation administers the MFP-AC, including training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all board certified counselors. 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 Foundation will distribute \$15,000 to Rivera and the other 39 master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Rivera is a graduate of the Universidad de Puerto Rico en Carolina and is currently a master's student in the addiction counseling program at the Universidad Central del Caribe. Upon graduation, Rivera intends to work with minority populations, particularly individuals with substance use disorders. She would also like to work with those who are victims of violence and marginalization, such as women, LGBTQ+ individuals, those who experience homelessness, and people who suffer because of their skin color or ethnicity. This fellowship will allow her to learn and development new strategies and skills to be a stronger professional and help others feel more confident.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 20 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the MFP and 30 \$10,000 [master's-level fellowships](#) through the MFP-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). The NBCC Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-AC application period in fall 2020. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows.

*Biographical information provided by the awardee.

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 66,000 board certified counselors in the United States and more than 50 countries. The NBCC Foundation's mission is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change.

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