

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2020

Ash M. Bayer Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



New Orleans, LA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Ash M. Bayer of New Orleans, Louisiana, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Bayer will receive funding and training to support their education and facilitate their service to underserved populations.

The NBCC MFP-MHC-M is made possible by a grant awarded to the NBCC Foundation by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The NBCC Foundation administers the MFP-MHC-M, 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 number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally competent services to underserved populations.

The NBCC Foundation will distribute \$10,000 to Bayer and the other 29 master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Bayer is a graduate of Hunter College and is currently enrolled at The University of New Orleans, where they are pursuing a master's degree in the clinical mental health counseling program. Upon graduation, Bayer plans to work with marginalized communities, with a particular interest in supporting youth and fostering resilience and power for a more equitable society. Bayer hopes to include transformative justice practices in their work and advocacy as a counselor. Earning this fellowship will allow Bayer to develop a strong professional identity and focus on building the skills necessary to be of service to their community.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 20 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the MFP and 40 [master's-level fellowships](#) of \$15,000 through the MFP for Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). The NBCC Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-MHC-M 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 over 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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