

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation
3 Terrace Way
Greensboro, NC 27403
336-232-0376
nbccf.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2020

Claire Tam Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Portland, OR—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Claire Tam of Portland, Oregon, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Tam will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her 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 Claire Tam and the other 29 master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Tam is a graduate of Ithaca College and is currently enrolled at Lewis & Clark College, where she is pursuing a master's degree in the professional mental health counseling program. As a multi-marginalized individual, Tam aims to use her own lived experiences to support other individuals with intersectional identities who often struggle to find safe spaces where they can show up fully and authentically. She recognizes oppressive systemic barriers have historically made it difficult for LGBTQ+ persons of color to receive culturally affirming and trauma-informed mental health care and endeavors to utilize the NBCC MFP to work toward addressing this disparity in access. Tam's prior experience as a responder with refugees also spurs her interest in serving immigrants and populations affected by large-scale trauma, such as natural disasters. The fellowship also enables her desire to learn more about serving these marginalized populations by extending beyond the classroom as she attends professional conferences and participates in invaluable opportunities to advance social justice within mental health care.

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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