

PRESS RELEASE

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gerardo Wence-Munoz Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Las Vegas, NV—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Gerardo Wence-Munoz, of Las Vegas, Nevada, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Doctoral Counselors (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Doctoral Fellow, Wence-Munoz will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his service to underserved populations.

The NBCC MFP 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, including training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all board certified counselors. 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 Foundation will distribute \$20,000 to Wence-Munoz and the other 19 doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Wence-Munoz is a graduate of Northeastern Illinois University and Northern Illinois University, and he is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at University of the Cumberlands. Wence-Munoz is interested in researching the intersectionality of social identities, treatment of trauma, substance abuse, and sexual violence and its relation to the minority population. He is especially interested in exploring how the intersectionality of social identity influences the lack of mental health services for members of minority groups and how it further exacerbates discrimination against minority groups (Latino, African American, LGBTQ, disabled, and more).

Currently, Wence-Munoz is a full-time school counselor that serves at a minority designated school in Las Vegas, Nevada. He also works with the Latino and African American population in a private setting to address a variety of issues, including depression, anxiety, psychosis, trauma, domestic violence, gender-related challenges, and other mental health disorders. Furthermore, he has been working with LGBTQ foster parents and their kids in finding ways to increase positive-relationship enhancement and trauma-release processes to support kids' positive behavior and healthy mental health development. This fellowship will help Wence-Munoz continue supporting and serving individuals in his community by providing multicultural services. Also, this fellowship will help him engage in research regarding cultural awareness and multicultural and linguistics competencies. Furthermore, this fellowship will allow Wence-Munoz to continue participating in professional training to enhance his skills further to serve individuals in his community.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 30 \$10,000 [master's-level fellowships](#) through the MFP-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M) 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 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.

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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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