

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 4, 2020

Heather A. Wagoner Awarded \$15,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Great Falls, MT—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Heather A. Wagoner, of Great Falls, Montana, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Wagoner 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 Wagoner and the other 39 master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Wagoner is a graduate of the Community College of the Air Force, Park University, and is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling program at Colorado Christian University. Upon graduation, Wagoner will work with underserved minority populations, particularly those with substance use disorders and complex trauma. She also wishes to work with outlying communities in rural Montana that are without a full-time mental health counselor or addiction services in their area. Being awarded this fellowship will allow Wagoner to attend counseling conferences to strengthen her professional identity as a clinical mental health counselor, learn evidence-based practices to better serve underserved populations in the area of substance use disorders, and advocate for the counseling profession and those with substance use disorders within her community.

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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