

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Hope Elizabeth Swearingen Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Fort Collins, CO—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Hope Elizabeth Swearingen of Fort Collins, Colorado, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Swearingen 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 Swearingen and the other 29 master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Swearingen is a graduate of Colorado State University and is currently enrolled at Denver Seminary, where she is pursuing a master's degree in the clinical mental health counseling and school counseling program. Upon graduation, Swearingen intends to work in a school setting as a clinical mental health counselor, particularly in an urban or low-income area so that she can provide services to vulnerable individuals, such as homeless student populations. She would also like to focus her work toward Mexican and Central American immigrant communities and plans to facilitate trauma-informed care because there is often a shortage of mental health services for Spanish-speaking populations. Earning this fellowship will allow her to grow as a culturally competent counselor as she is given the opportunity to connect with other fellows, attend counseling conferences geared toward providing support to minority populations, and establish a strong professional identity as a counselor.

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](http://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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