

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Jairo Ivan Robles Morales Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Nashville, TN—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Jairo Ivan Robles Morales of Nashville, Tennessee, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Robles Morales will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his 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 Robles Morales and the other 29 master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Robles Morales is a graduate of Trevecca Nazarene University and is currently enrolled at Middle Tennessee State University, where he is pursuing a master's degree in the clinical mental health counseling program. Upon graduating, Robles Morales intends to focus his work on Nashville's growing Latino population. More specifically, he intends to help community members address intergenerational and situational trauma that stems from each individual's unique immigrant experience. Due to his own immigrant story, Robles Morales also hopes to serve underrepresented and marginalized members of the Latino community who lack the proper financial resources to access affordable mental health services. Becoming a part of the NBCC MFP will provide him with the opportunity to develop a stronger professional identity while interacting with like-minded mentors and peers from different communities and counseling backgrounds.

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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