

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Joel Gopurathingal Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Rochester, NY—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Joel Gopurathingal of Rochester, New York, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Gopurathingal 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 Gopurathingal and the other 29 master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Gopurathingal is a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology and is currently enrolled at Boston University School of Medicine, where he is pursuing a master's degree in the mental health counseling and behavioral medicine program. Upon graduation, Gopurathingal plans to become a licensed mental health counselor and is committed to working with the LGBTQ-POC community, specifically with college-age students who are struggling with identity development. He is motivated to empower this community by providing evidence-based practices that focus on the clients' cultural backgrounds while incorporating culturally appropriate interventions to improve their overall health and well-being. Earning this fellowship will allow Gopurathingal to attend counseling conferences to establish a stronger professional identity as a counselor, develop the necessary skills to better serve the LGBTQ-POC community, and gain more tools to be an advocate for the mental health counseling profession and those who are not able to advocate for themselves.

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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