

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kimberley Kai Winther Warnecke Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Holualoa, HI—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Kimberley Kai Winther Warnecke of Holualoa, Hawaii, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Warnecke 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 Warnecke and the other 29 master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Warnecke is a graduate of Azusa Pacific University and is currently enrolled at George Fox University, where she is pursuing a master's degree in the marriage, couple, and family counseling program. As a former high school teacher, Warnecke intends to continue her work with teens and transition-age youth upon graduation, particularly those with a history of trauma. She believes in the importance of mental health education and trauma-informed care, and she hopes to provide educational opportunities surrounding these topics for teachers, parents, and community members—particularly in places like her hometown, where there is limited access to mental health resources. She hopes to continue working in school settings, as she believes education and early intervention to be crucial in effecting positive changes in communities. Receiving this fellowship will allow Warnecke the opportunity to attend trainings and conferences that will increase her multicultural competencies, strengthen her professional identity as a counselor, and teach her evidence-based practices to use in her future work with underserved populations.

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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