

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Millie M. Villafane Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Parker, CO—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Millie M. Villafane of Parker, Colorado, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Villafane 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 Villafane and the other 29 master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Villafane is a graduate of Columbia College of Missouri and is currently enrolled at Liberty University, where she is pursuing a master's degree in the clinical mental health counseling program. As a veteran, Villafane intends to work upon graduation with military members as well as ethnic minority populations, who often face barriers to appropriate and timely mental health services. She is also interested in working with children and teenagers who have experienced trauma. Earning this fellowship will allow Villafane to attend counseling conferences to enhance her identity as a counselor, learn and apply evidence-based practices to provide quality services to underserved populations, and be an advocate for the profession of counseling.

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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