

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation
3 Terrace Way
Greensboro, NC 27403
336-232-0376
nbccf.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shalom Parker Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Chicago, IL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Shalom Parker of Chicago, Illinois, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Parker 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 Parker and the other 29 master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Parker is a graduate of Wheaton College and is currently enrolled at Adler University, where she is pursuing a master's degree in the counseling and art therapy program. Upon graduation, Parker intends to work with youth involved in the criminal justice system in the city of Chicago. Her long-term plan includes starting a nonprofit that combines the power of counseling and art to empower high-risk youth and those coming out of the criminal justice system. Earning this fellowship will allow Parker to continue establishing her identity as a minority counselor and use her platforms to advocate for more people of color joining her in the profession as well as working to make counseling more accessible and relevant for minority 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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