

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Shanika D.L. McKoy Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Hartford, CT—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Shanika D.L. McKoy of Hartford, Connecticut, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, McKoy 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 McKoy and the other 29 master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. McKoy is a graduate of the University of Hartford and is currently enrolled at the University of St. Joseph, where she is pursuing a master's degree in the clinical mental health counseling program. Upon graduation, McKoy intends to work with ethnic minority populations, primarily youth population and their families, as she believes it is a critical developmental period where mental health services are often underused. Additionally, she would like to work with marginalized groups living in urban communities, where quality services are typically lacking and access is limited. Earning this fellowship will allow McKoy to attend various counseling conferences to enhance her professional identity as a counselor, advocate for the counseling profession to reduce societal and cultural stigmas within these minority groups, conduct research, and learn evidence-based practices to adequately serve these groups and create effective programming.

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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