

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Tesa L. Tapuriah Awarded \$15,000 Counseling Fellowship From the NBCC Foundation



Honolulu, HI—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Tesa L. Tapuriah, of Honolulu, Hawaii, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Tapuriah will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her addictions counseling service to underserved populations.

The NBCC MFP-AC is made possible by a grant awarded to the NBCC Foundation in collaboration with the Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC) by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The NBCC Foundation administers the MFP-AC, 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 available number of culturally competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC Foundation will distribute \$15,000 to Tapuriah and the other 39 master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Tapuriah is both a graduate of and is currently a master's student in the addiction counseling program at Ottawa University. Upon graduation, Tapuriah intends to continue working with disenfranchised populations that experience symptoms of mental health, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorders. During her final years of professional education, she has been advocating alongside her colleagues, providing therapeutic interventions with populations that face myriad inequities within the community. Her direct client experience has focused on single adult women and women with small children who are seeking continuum of care needs after re-entering mainstream society from treatment facilities, penal institutions, and mental health facilities.

Tapuriah's long-term objective is to obtain the skills needed to bridge the gap in the continuum of care policies across the nation. Her hopes are to provide integrative services through fostering relationships with community partners, including supportive housing environments, case management services, vocational training, and therapeutic counseling services for women and their young children upon release from residential treatment facilities and institutions. This fellowship will provide her the opportunity to train on a national level using evidence-based practices and networking with other professionals in the addictions field. These opportunities will strengthen her ability to improve upon the needed services for her community at large. She will also work to create additional platforms for professional and personal mentorship, which will ultimately lead her to build new competencies as well as serve as an advocate for change in re-entry policies as they relate to all populations experiencing symptoms of mental health, substance use, and co-occurring disorders.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 20 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the MFP and 30 \$10,000 [master's-level fellowships](#) through the MFP-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). The NBCC Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-AC 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.

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## 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 more than 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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