

**PRESS RELEASE**  
NBCC Foundation  
3 Terrace Way  
Greensboro, NC 27403-3660  
[foundation@nbcc.org](mailto:foundation@nbcc.org)  
[nbccf.org](http://nbccf.org)



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## **Brandon Wilcher Receives Rural Scholarship From the NBCC Foundation**



Dublin, GA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. (NBCC), recently awarded an \$8,000 NBCC Foundation rural scholarship to Brandon Wilcher, of Dublin, Georgia. The rural scholarship is awarded to master's-level counseling students who are from rural communities and commit to practicing in rural areas upon graduation.

The mission of the NBCC Foundation is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change. The Foundation created the rural scholarship in 2009 to improve access to counseling services in rural communities, which suffer disproportionately from a lack of mental health care. The NBCC Foundation awarded six \$8,000 [rural scholarships](#) for the 2020–2021 award year.

As a rural scholarship recipient, Wilcher will receive \$8,000 to support his counseling education and recognize his commitment to underserved communities. Wilcher is a graduate of and is currently enrolled at Georgia Southern University as a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling program. Upon graduation, Wilcher intends to work with adolescents and young adults, including those often marginalized, such as ethnic minorities and people living in rural areas where quality mental health services are typically lacking. Earning this scholarship will allow him to establish a more robust professional identity as a counselor, develop skills to better serve underserved populations, and combat stigmas related to the counseling profession.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded six \$8,000 [military scholarships](#) to increase the number of counselors serving fellow military personnel, veterans, and their families. The Foundation plans to continue offering scholarships to increase the number of counselors in the areas where they are needed most and will open the next application period in spring 2021. Through the NBCC Foundation scholarship programs, over \$860,000 has been awarded to over 200 counseling students working to provide effective, culturally competent services to underserved populations. For more information or to make a gift in support of scholars like these, please visit [www.nbccf.org](http://www.nbccf.org).

### **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 Foundation's mission is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change.

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