

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Andre N. Joachim Jr. Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



DeKalb, IL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Andre N. Joachim Jr., of DeKalb, Illinois, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Joachim Jr. will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his service to underserved minority populations.

The NBCC MFP is made possible by a grant awarded to the NBCC Foundation by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Foundation administers the MFP, including training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all National Certified Counselors (NCCs). The goal of the program is to strengthen the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally competent services to underserved populations.

The NBCC Foundation will distribute \$20,000 to Joachim and the other 19 doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Joachim is a graduate of Joliet Junior College, in Joliet, Illinois, and both a student and graduate of Northern Illinois University, in DeKalb, where he is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in the counselor education and supervision program. Joachim's current research interests include the overall mental health and well-being of people of color in the vitiligo community in comparison to standard populations. More specifically, he has interest in investigating various issues related to depression, suicidal ideations, labeling, and trauma associated with a vitiligo diagnosis to bring awareness of the mental health needs of this under researched population. In addition, Joachim is interested in working with and researching African-American men and various issues impacting this group. Currently, Joachim works as a licensed counselor with varying populations in private practice. His general areas of counseling competence include crisis counseling, psychoeducation, group work, couples and poly-relationship concerns, developmental and transitional issues, communication and conflict resolution, juvenile justice, anxiety and depression, substance abuse, and adjudicated client issues with an emphasis on addressing trauma-related concerns. He is also the founder of Visibly Imperfectly Perfect, which addresses and supports the needs of characteristically unique individuals.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 30 \$10,000 [master's-level fellowships](#) through the MFP-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M) and 40 [master's-level fellowships](#) of \$15,000 through the MFP-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP application period in fall 2019. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit [www.nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows](http://www.nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows).

#### 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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