

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bianca Maria Milz Awarded \$15,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Fargo, ND—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Bianca Maria Milz, of Fargo, North Dakota, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Milz will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her addictions counseling service to underserved minority 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 Foundation administers the MFP-AC, including training and collaboration activities, such as [webinars](#), that are open to all National Certified Counselors (NCCs). 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 MFP will distribute up to \$15,000 to Milz and the other 39 master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Milz is both a student and graduate of Minnesota State University, in Moorhead, where she is currently pursuing a master's degree in the clinical mental health and addictions counseling program. Milz plans to provide services in her community to underserved populations experiencing issues with mental health and addiction. Milz intends to minimize the barriers and reduce the stigma associated with seeking services for mental health and addiction. Some of the many populations Milz would like to serve include individuals from underserved racial and ethnic communities, individuals who identify with the LGBT+ community, and military veterans. Earning this fellowship will allow Milz to continue advocating for underserved populations and further develop her professional identity as a counselor. Milz will also be able to build connections and strengthen her knowledge working with underserved populations.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 20 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 30 \$10,000 [master's-level fellowships](#) through the MFP-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-AC application period in fall 2019. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit <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 65,000 board certified counselors in the United States and more than 50 countries. The Foundation's mission is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change.

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