

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Brenton Swortwood Awarded \$15,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



Buhler, KA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Brenton Swortwood, of Buhler, Kansas, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Swortwood will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his 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 Swortwood and the other 39 master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Swortwood is a graduate of Emporia State University, in Emporia, Kansas and is currently a master's student in the human services/addictions counseling program at Washburn University, in Topeka, Kansas. Swortwood is a substance abuse counselor for a local outpatient substance abuse facility in Kansas, where he is licensed as an addictions counselor. Swortwood has extensive experience working with diverse underserved and unserved individuals affected by incarceration, substance abuse, violence, and trauma. Upon graduation, Swortwood intends to work with clients that meet poverty guidelines, particularly those who do not have health insurance and/or cannot financially afford to pay for substance abuse services. Earning this fellowship will allow Swortwood to attend counseling conferences to establish a stronger professional identity as a counselor, learn evidence-based practices to better serve underserved populations, and advocate for the counseling profession.

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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