

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Christopher B. Wittlinger Awarded \$15,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Yadkinville, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Christopher B. Wittlinger, of Yadkinville, North Carolina, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Wittlinger 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 Wittlinger and the other 39 master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Wittlinger is a graduate of Piedmont International University, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and is currently a master's student in the addictions counseling program at Grand Canyon University, in Phoenix, Arizona. Upon graduation, Wittlinger plans to continue to serve the rural community of Yadkinville, North Carolina. As a program manager and substance abuse counselor at Alpha Acres (a one-year residential program), Wittlinger plans to use this fellowship to enhance the quality of substance use disorder services he provides as well as become a louder voice for the needs of the community. Moving from a suburban area to a rural community has enlightened Wittlinger to the different issues and circumstances surrounding those affected by substance use disorders in different environments, and he is excited to continue to work with the rural population. With the resources made available to him through this fellowship, Wittlinger plans to continue his education by earning either his PhD or PsyD in the field of addictions, counseling, or counseling education.

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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