

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Courtney B. Williamson Awarded \$15,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Gordo, AL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Courtney B. Williamson, of Gordo, Alabama, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Williamson 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 Williamson and the other 39 master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Williamson is a graduate of The University of Alabama, in Tuscaloosa, and is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling program at Walden University, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Upon graduation, Williamson intends to work in private practice where she will serve individuals suffering from the disease of addiction, specifically those in rural communities with a lack of access to substance use disorder treatment. She intends to pursue her PhD in counselor education and supervision and hopes to pursue teaching and research in the field of addiction. Earning this fellowship will allow Williamson to attend counseling symposiums and conferences where she will be paired with an elite mentor in the field of addiction counseling, learn evidence-based interventions to better serve this population, and further establish her professional identity as a clinical mental health counselor.

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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