

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cyril M. Scovens Awarded \$15,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Baltimore, MD—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Cyril M. Scovens, of Baltimore, Maryland, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Scovens 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 Scovens and the other 39 master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Scovens is a graduate of the Community College of Baltimore County, in Baltimore, Maryland, and is both a student and graduate of Coppin State University, in Baltimore, Maryland, where he is currently pursuing a master's degree in the addictions counseling program. Scovens is an addiction counselor for a local behavioral health center that offers medication-assisted treatment and mental health services in Maryland, where he is certified as an associate counselor in alcohol and drugs. He also holds the Certified Associate Counselor-Alcohol and Drug certification. Scovens has extensive experience working with diverse underserved and unserved individuals affected by homelessness, incarceration, mental health disorders, substance abuse, violence, trauma, and other serious issues. Scovens' passion for academic research has led him to start the non-profit CMS Institute of Addictionology, whose mission is to create new treatment methodologies with a focus on the underserved populations in urban environments. Upon graduation, he will continue to work with underserved populations, seeking to provide addiction treatment in urban environments. His main goals are to provide new methodologies in addiction services to these marginalized groups, such as ethnic minorities and people living in poverty stricken areas, where addiction treatment services are typically lacking. Earning this fellowship will help him 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. He also plans to obtain a PhD in addiction psychology.

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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