

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Erika Dennise Salinas Awarded \$15,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



San Juan, TX—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Erika Dennise Salinas, of San Juan, Texas, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Salinas 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 Salinas and the other 39 master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Salinas is a graduate of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, in Edinburg, and is currently a master's student in the addictions counseling program at Texas Tech University, in Lubbock. Upon graduation, Salinas intends to continue working with minority youth who struggle with substance use disorders. She is currently providing services to youth who reside in "colonias," which are substandard housing developments, often found along the Texas–Mexico border. Salinas wishes to expand her efforts in reaching youth and families in rural areas. Earning this fellowship will allow Salinas to continue working with said population, attend counseling conferences to establish a stronger professional identity as a counselor, and continue to be an advocate for the addiction 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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