

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation
3 Terrace Way
Greensboro, NC 27403-3660
Phone: 336-232-0376
www.nbccf.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 2019

Felicia Fonseca Gatewood Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Decatur, GA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Felicia Fonseca Gatewood of Decatur, Georgia, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program Mental Health Counseling-Master’s (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Gatewood will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations.

The NBCC MFP-MHC-M is made possible by a grant awarded to the NBCC Foundation by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Foundation administers the MFP, 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 number of available culturally

competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC Foundation MFP will distribute up to \$10,000 to Gatewood and the other 29 master’s-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Gatewood is a graduate of UNICEUB at Brasilia, Distrito Federal, in Brazil, Montgomery College, in Silver Springs, Maryland, and is both a student and graduate of Georgia State University, in Atlanta, where she is currently pursuing a master’s degree in the clinical mental health counseling program. Gatewood’s goal is to provide mental health services for the multicultural population, specifically bicultural people, immigrants, and refugees. Gatewood is particularly invested in working with underserved communities challenged with gang violence and in need of compassion and acceptance to heal. In doing this kind of work, Gatewood will be drawing on her extensive experiences from living and working in Brazil. In Brazil she worked for organizations aimed at applying restorative justice while encouraging dialogue to diminish conflict amongst community gang members. In addition, Gatewood is passionate about filial therapy—teaching caregivers to respond to children with practical limit setting embedded with empathy, promoting strong attachment bonds between caregivers and children. In the future, using cultural relativism and humility, Gatewood wants to create a method for forgiveness drawn from restorative justice to promote healing in multicultural communities. She believes the Western model of mental health intervention is biased, which discourages multicultural individuals from seeking counseling. Conflicts around the world are growing, making more culturally competent mental health approaches for refugees and immigrants essential.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 20 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 40 [master’s-level fellowships](#) of \$15,000 through the MFP-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MHC-M 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 66,000 board certified counselors in the United States and over 50 countries. The Foundation's mission is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change.

###