

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hilary J. Fitch Awarded \$15,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Jackson, OH—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Hilary J. Fitch, of Jackson, Ohio, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Fitch 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 Fitch and the other 39 master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Fitch is a graduate of Aspen University, in Denver, Colorado, and is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling and clinical rehabilitation counseling program at Ohio University, in Athens. Upon graduation, Fitch intends to work with individuals struggling with both mental health and co-occurring substance use issues, particularly individuals who are often marginalized, such as those within the gender and sexual/affectual minority spectrum, ethnic minorities, women with a history of trauma, and individuals who reside in rural areas, where mental health and addiction treatment services are typically lacking. Being awarded this fellowship will allow Fitch to attend mental health and addiction counseling conferences where she will have the opportunity to establish a stronger professional identity as a counselor, learn evidence-based practices to better serve minority populations, and advocate for the 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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