

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 2019

Jacklyn J. Byrd 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 Jacklyn J. Byrd of Decatur, Georgia, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program Mental Health Counseling-Master’s (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Byrd 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 Byrd and the other 29 master’s-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Byrd is a graduate of the University of Georgia, in Athens, and is currently a master’s student in the clinical mental health counseling program at Georgia State University, in Atlanta. Upon graduation, Byrd intends to work with people with marginalized identities, particularly those living with addiction, crisis, and trauma. She would also like to serve gender and sexual minorities as well as people living with disabilities. Byrd hopes to also work in communities with mental health disparities due to geography or identity-based issues. Earning this fellowship will allow her to advocate for the counseling profession while furthering her education in evidence-based somatic practices designed to treat trauma and addiction.

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.

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