

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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James Preston Norris Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Los Angeles, CA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected James Preston Norris, of Los Angeles, California, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Norris will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his service to underserved minority populations.

The NBCC MFP 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 strengthen the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally competent services to underserved populations.

The NBCC Foundation will distribute \$20,000 to Norris and the other 19 doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Norris is a graduate of Seattle University, in Washington, and of Western Illinois University, in Macomb, Illinois, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at the University of the Cumberlands, in Williamsburg, Kentucky. Norris is currently interested in researching hip-hop as a linguistic tool for social-emotional development in the African-American community along with other underrepresented communities. He is currently serving the African-American community in Seattle, Washington, through community forums along with providing mental health counseling through a telemental health platform. This fellowship will help Norris become more prepared to teach in higher education and become more involved in his research area through community involvement, education, and training. This fellowship will also help him get involved with professional organizations and receive additional training in working with underserved minority populations.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 30 \$10,000 [master's-level fellowships](#) through the MFP-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M) and 40 [master's-level fellowships](#) of \$15,000 through the MFP-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP application period in fall 2019. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit 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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