

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 2019

Jose Luis Tapia-Fuselier Jr. Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Denton, TX—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Jose Luis Tapia-Fuselier Jr., of Denton, Texas, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Tapia-Fuselier Jr. 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 Tapia-Fuselier and the other 19 doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Tapia-Fuselier is a graduate of The University of Texas–Pan American, in Edinburg, and is both a student and graduate of the University of North Texas, in Denton, where he is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in the counseling program. Tapia-Fuselier is currently interested in researching clinical interventions for inter-abled couples, individual experiences of inter-abled couples after acquiring a disability, and culturally responsive care across the life span for people with disabilities and intersectional identities. He is currently a graduate assistant with the Integrated Care and Behavioral Health Project at the University of North Texas, where one of his roles is establishing partnerships for master’s-level interns within integrated care and behavioral health settings with the goal of increasing multicultural and linguistically diverse competencies. Additionally, he serves clients with disabilities in individual, relationship, and family counseling in three languages (i.e., English, Spanish, and American Sign Language). This fellowship will assist Tapia-Fuselier to gain advanced training in emotionally focused therapy with a clinical focus on inter-abled couples, identify clinical needs of inter-abled couples in order to educate practitioners and counselors-in-training, advocate for the needs of clients with disabilities, and collaborate with counseling agencies to improve accessibility and access for clients with disabilities. It will also help him obtain experiences getting involved with professional organizations and receive advanced training to provide culturally responsive care to 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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