

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kirsten Cole Awarded \$15,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Blowing Rock, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Kirsten Cole, of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Cole 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 Cole and the other 39 master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Cole is both a student and graduate of Appalachian State University, in Boone, North Carolina, where she is currently pursuing a master's degree in the clinical mental health counseling program. Upon graduation, Cole intends to pursue licensure as a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist and work directly in the addictions field. She is interested in working with individuals with substance use, depressive, anxiety, and trauma disorders by fostering an environment to promote healing. Cole is committed to being an advocate for this population with a motivation to reduce the stigma around those with substance use disorders. Earning this fellowship will allow Cole to further her knowledge in the field of addictions counseling by attending conferences focused on this population, networking with other professionals in the profession, and growing her professional identity as an addictions counselor.

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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