

PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kristen “Nikki” Proctor Receives Rural Scholarship From the NBCC Foundation



Clinton, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. (NBCC), recently awarded an \$8,000 2019 NBCC Foundation rural scholarship to Kristen “Nikki” Proctor, of Clinton, North Carolina. The rural scholarship is awarded to counseling students who are from rural communities and commit to practicing in rural areas upon graduation.

The mission of the NBCC Foundation is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change. The Foundation created the rural scholarship in 2009 to improve access to counseling services in rural communities, which suffer disproportionately from a lack of mental health care. More than 50 students from across the country applied for the five 2019 rural scholarships.

As a rural scholarship recipient, Proctor will receive \$8,000 to support her counseling education and recognize her commitment to the underserved. Proctor is a graduate of North Carolina State University in Raleigh and is currently a master’s student in the counselor education program at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. Upon graduation, Proctor will also be eligible for certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst—a national certification that supports her cognitive behavioral counseling orientation. Proctor plans to remain in rural Southeastern North Carolina after graduation and continue her work as a career educator serving at-risk and veteran populations.

Proctor’s decision to remain in the education field hinges on her beliefs that education is the greatest equalizer and that school-based counseling programs can have far-reaching impacts for both students and the community. Through community involvement, collaboration, and advocacy, Proctor plans to impact the way her rural community views mental health care and work toward normalizing help-seeking behaviors. In the future, Proctor hopes to pursue a PhD and has research interests in neuropsychology, crisis response, and health care accessibility as well as interests in crafting public policy. This scholarship will allow Proctor to receive specialty training and attend conferences where she will learn evidence-based practices for serving disenfranchised populations.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded five \$8,000 [military scholarships](#) to increase the number of counselors serving fellow military personnel, veterans, and their families. The Foundation plans to continue offering scholarships to increase the number of counselors in the areas where they are needed most and will open the next application period in spring 2020. For more information or to make a gift in support of scholars like these, please visit nbccf.org.

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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