

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 2019

Kristie H. Pierson Awarded \$15,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Garland, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Kristie H. Pierson, of Garland, North Carolina, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Pierson 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 Pierson and the other 39 master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Pierson is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, and is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling/licensed clinical addiction specialist program at North Carolina Central University, in Durham, North Carolina. Upon graduation, Pierson intends to continue working with the criminal justice population in rural areas who have substance abuse issues. She would also like to work with those who are underserved, such as those in jail and prison, where substance abuse programs are usually lacking. Earning this fellowship will allow Pierson to continue her education, attend specialized trainings, and get certifications that are lacking in her current area.

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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