

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Madelayne Rodriguez Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Miami Springs, FL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Madelayne Rodriguez of Miami Springs, Florida, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Rodriguez will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations.

The NBCC MFP-MHC-M 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 reduce health disparities and improve behavioral health care outcomes for racially and ethnically diverse populations by increasing the number of available culturally

competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC Foundation MFP will distribute up to \$10,000 to Rodriguez and the other 29 master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Rodriguez is both a student and graduate of Florida International University, in Miami, where she is currently pursuing a master's degree in the clinical mental health counseling program. Upon graduation, Rodriguez plans to work with Hispanic women in her community, particularly young Hispanic women struggling to cope with adversity. She would like to empower this population by bringing mental health professionals, educators, families, mentors, activists, and community members together to help spark positive change through art-based action projects that spread awareness throughout the community, reduce health disparities, and improve overall health and well-being. This fellowship will allow Rodriguez to gain a stronger professional identity, learn ways to help underserved populations, and advocate for mental health counseling.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 20 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 40 [master's-level fellowships](#) of \$15,000 through the MFP-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MHC-M 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 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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