

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation
3 Terrace Way
Greensboro, NC 27403-3660
Phone: 336-232-0376
www.nbccf.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maylee Vazquez Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Winston Salem, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Maylee Vazquez, of Winston Salem, North Carolina, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Vazquez will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her 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 Vazquez and the other 19 doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Vazquez is a graduate of East Carolina University, in Greenville, North Carolina, and of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. As a doctoral student, Vazquez is interested in research that explores university and community partnerships with Latinx families within the United States. Her research focuses on unique toxic stressors faced by Latinx families and students in the United States, such as mixed status family households, discrimination, and the stress of an uncertain future. In addition, she is focusing on research that highlights the adjustment of younger generations of Latinx individuals and best practices of counselors working in mental health community centers. She is interested in proactively motivating and educating professionals in the mental health profession on how to make futuristic planning for mixed status families. Vazquez is currently working with families at the Camino Community Center (Camino), an integrated care facility that infuses both physical and mental health services to the Latinx community in Charlotte, North Carolina. The goal of Camino is to assist the Latinx community holistically. A majority of her clients only speak Spanish and as a way to meet their needs, she conducts counseling sessions entirely in Spanish. She works both individually with clients and family systems focusing on reunification. Working at Camino has been an enriching experience and has continued to inspire Vazquez's work as a doctoral student. The Minority Fellowship Program will assist Vazquez by alleviating some of the financial burden to continue her education, allowing her more time to advocate for programs that could be beneficial to the Latinx community and further research on best practices for counselors working with minorities.

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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