

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mónica Rodríguez Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Denton, TX—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Mónica Rodríguez, of Denton, Texas, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Rodríguez 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 Rodríguez and the other 19 doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Rodríguez is a graduate of Texas State University, in San Marcos, and of The University of Texas at Austin, and is currently a doctoral student in the counseling program at the University of North Texas, in Denton. Rodríguez specializes in counseling, advocacy, and social justice for underrepresented populations, specifically the Spanish-speaking Latinx community. The goal of her research and work as a doctoral student is to amplify the voices of marginalized individuals, families, students, and communities while highlighting the stigma and barriers these populations face when seeking mental health services. As a bilingual counselor and play therapist, Rodríguez serves clients across the life span and in different environments. Currently, she serves as a counselor at the Child and Family Resource Clinic and Lumin Education Early Childhood Learning. Most of her clientele are families and individuals from low socioeconomic backgrounds and/or recent immigrants. As a supervisor, she provides Spanish supervision for master's students with Spanish-speaking clients. During her first semester at the University of North Texas, Rodríguez went to Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria and provided play therapy training and services. This established a relationship with many of the mental health professionals in Puerto Rico who a few months later traveled to Dallas for continued play therapy training. This fellowship will help Rodríguez's goal of providing another play therapy training, supervision, and micro-practicum in Puerto Rico for mental health practitioners that is specifically adapted for the themes they are observing in their children post Hurricane Maria. The research outcomes following this training can help inform policy changes and assess for the needs of the children and mental health practitioners. Additionally this fellowship will allow Rodríguez to attend trainings that will equip her with knowledge on how to better serve her clients and advocate for communities.

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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