

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nicolas Williams Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Atlanta, GA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Nicolas Williams, of Atlanta, Georgia, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Williams will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his 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 Williams and the other 19 doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Williams is a graduate of Wake Forest University, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, in Greensboro, North Carolina, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and practice program at Georgia State University, in Atlanta. Williams is currently interested in researching the referral process of Black church clergy to professional mental health services and examining ways mindfulness practices might be adapted to increase cultural comfort and accessibility, and reduce stress and anxiety for African-Americans seeking counseling. This year, Williams will be a student intern providing counseling services to clients affected by HIV at an integrated health center in the greater Atlanta area. This fellowship will help Williams to further his research agenda and contribute to the knowledge base of his research areas of interest. This fellowship will also support Williams' participation in specialized education and training, community involvement, and outreach initiatives to provide quality services to underserved minority populations.

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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