

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Paola Andrea Rojas Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Miami, FL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Paola Andrea Rojas of Miami, Florida, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Rojas 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 Rojas and the other 29 master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Rojas is both a student and graduate of Florida International University, in Miami, where she is currently pursuing a master's degree in the counselor education program. Upon graduation, Rojas intends to work with underrepresented and underserved culturally diverse children and adolescents in juvenile detention facilities, particularly undocumented minors held at immigrant detention centers. Rojas aspires to work for a shelter for undocumented and unaccompanied minors in Florida to facilitate the well-being of these individuals' lives and practice her bilingualism to help support a larger percentage of the at-risk communities that could benefit from mental health services. Earning the fellowship will allow Rojas to be exposed to a higher clinical level of work with much more demanding training, allowing her to acquire the necessary knowledge about working with a diverse and underrepresented population that needs the culturally appropriate guidance and empowerment a counselor can provide.

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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