

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shahna Creagan Awarded \$15,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Vancouver, WA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Shahna Creagan, of Vancouver, Washington, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Creagan will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her addictions counseling service to underserved minority populations.

The NBCC MFP-AC is made possible by a grant awarded to the NBCC Foundation in collaboration with the Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC) by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Foundation administers the MFP-AC, 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 available number of culturally competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC Foundation MFP will distribute up to \$15,000 to Creagan and the other 39 master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Creagan is a graduate of Washington State University, in Vancouver, and is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling program at the University of the Cumberlands, in Williamsburg, Kentucky. After graduation, Creagan will continue to work with people struggling with mental health and co-occurring drug addiction. Earning this fellowship will allow Creagan the opportunity to complete her master's degree in mental health and obtain her mental health license for her state. Her hope is to be one of the first therapists in her community with both a mental health and chemical dependency license. With both these licenses, she will be able to treat co-occurring needs with her patients at all levels of care. With this master's degree-level license, she will be able to better help her community develop much needed in- and outpatient services. Creagan would also like to work with people who are often marginalized, such as ethnic minorities and people living in rural areas, where mental health services are typically lacking. Receiving this fellowship will also allow Creagan the ability to attend counseling conferences to establish a stronger professional identity as a counselor, learn evidence-based practices to better serve underserved populations, and advocate for the counseling profession.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 20 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 30 \$10,000 [master's-level fellowships](#) through the MFP-Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-AC 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 65,000 board certified counselors in the United States and more than 50 countries. The Foundation's mission is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change.

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