

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Sofia Jasani Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



Portland, OR—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Sofia Jasani of Portland, Oregon, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program Mental Health Counseling-Master’s (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Jasani 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 Jasani and the other 29 master’s-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Jasani is a graduate of Goucher College, in Baltimore, Maryland, and is currently a master’s student in the clinical rehabilitation counseling program at Portland State University, in Oregon. Upon graduation, Jasani intends to work with children, adults, and families whose lives are impacted by chronic illness and disability. She would also like to work with people who hold multiple marginalized identities, including women of color and ethnic minorities, who deserve access to culturally competent mental health care. In her roles with the Oregon Counseling Association and Chi Sigma Iota International Honor Society, Jasani has been committed to making professional leadership accessible to counseling students of color through mentorship, community-building, and scholarships. Earning this fellowship will allow Jasani to attend counseling conferences and learn evidence-based practices to better serve underserved populations. Her goal as a 2019 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program Fellow is to establish a state division of the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development in order to increase access to effective, culturally competent counseling services for underserved minority populations in Oregon.

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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