

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation
3 Terrace Way
Greensboro, NC 27403-3660
Phone: 336-232-0376
www.nbccf.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stephanie Richard Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



West Palm Beach, FL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Stephanie Richard of West Palm Beach, Florida, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Richard 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 Richard and the other 29 master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Richard is a graduate of Florida State University, in Tallahassee, and is currently a master's student in the marriage, couples, and family therapy program at the University of Central Florida, in Orlando. Richard aspires to revolutionize the mental health profession within the Haitian-American community and other minority communities where mental health issues are often overshadowed. Her training and experiences as a counselor and her intimate knowledge of the Haitian-American population will provide her with the framework out of which to realize her goals of providing resources, training, and insights to better assist her community in becoming cognizant of mental health, mental illness, and the mental health services available to them. Earning this fellowship will provide her with the opportunity to network and collaborate with other mental health professionals who will become allies in advocating for and meeting the mental health needs of persons in communities who often experience mental health disparities.

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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