

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Turesa E. Gilchrist Awarded \$10,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Hampton, VA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Turesa E. Gilchrist of Hampton, Virginia, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program Mental Health Counseling-Master's (MFP-MHC-M). As an NBCC MFP-MHC-M Fellow, Gilchrist 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 Gilchrist and the other 29 master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Gilchrist is a graduate of Christopher Newport University, in Newport News, Virginia, and is currently a master's student in the school counseling program at Old Dominion University, in Norfolk, Virginia. Upon graduation, Gilchrist intends to work with youth from underserved minority populations and backgrounds of low-socioeconomic status. She would especially like to work with young people of color, who are often marginalized in society. As a future high school counselor, Gilchrist plans to conduct equity work in the school system by working to provide access, resources, and opportunities for students navigating through the college and career process. She would also like to gain experience advising first-generation community college students. Gilchrist also aspires to one day establish her own nonprofit youth development organization. Earning this fellowship will allow Gilchrist to attend counseling conferences to establish a stronger professional identity as a counselor, as well as gain more tools to better advocate for K-12 students and empower them with a sense of resiliency and self-efficacy.

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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