

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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William (Will) H. Coker IV Awarded \$15,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Portland, OR—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected William (Will) H. Coker IV, of Portland, Oregon, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Coker IV will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his 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 Coker and the other 39 master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Coker is a graduate of Oregon Health & Science University, in Portland, and of Metropolitan State College of Denver, in Colorado, and is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling and couple and family counseling program at George Fox University, in Portland, Oregon. Coker understands the commonalities and challenges impacting all lives and is motivated to work with individuals, couples, and families who have endured pain and loss. Primarily, he has a strong passion for serving veterans and the families of those who have carried the banner of freedom forward, and he seeks to honor them and their unique and personal sacrifices. Firefighters, police and medical first responders will forever hold a special place for him as a peer and supporter, and they will continue to be a priority and core element of his practice. PTSD, adjustment disorders, and relationship troubles are some of the specific issues that are affecting many of the people he has served with and helped over the past 20 years as a professional firefighter/paramedic living in and working around many communities that encompass the Portland metro area. As a counselor, he will be an advocate for underserved populations, listening to their needs, attempting to understand their concerns, working to establish sustainable solutions collaboratively.

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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