

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Giscard S. Petion Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Orlando, FL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Giscard S. Petion of Orlando, Florida, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y Fellow, Petion will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his service to underserved minority populations, with a specific focus on transition-age youth (ages 16–25).

The NBCC MFP-Y is made possible by a grant awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in September 2014. The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the NBCC MFP-Y, as well as 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 MFP will distribute \$8,000 education awards to Petion and the 29 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Petion is a graduate of the University of South Florida, in Tampa, and is currently pursuing a master's in the counselor education program at the University of Central Florida, in Orlando. Upon graduation, Petion intends to work with minority transition-age youth, specifically those who are dealing with home displacement, divorce, and incarceration. Petion also looks forward to working with minority athletes. Earning this fellowship will allow Petion to attend conferences, workshops, and other professional development opportunities that will further his growth as a professional counselor.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 34 master's-level fellowships of up to \$11,000 through the [MFP-Addictions Counselors](#) (MFP-AC). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-Y application period in fall 2018. 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 64,000 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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