

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Guile J. Contreras Receives Rural Scholarship From the NBCC Foundation



Siler City, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. (NBCC), recently awarded an \$8,000 2018 NBCC Foundation rural scholarship to Guile J. Contreras, of Siler City, North Carolina. The rural scholarship is awarded to counseling students who are from rural communities and commit to practicing in rural areas upon graduation.

The mission of the NBCC Foundation is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change. The Foundation created the rural scholarship in 2009 to improve access to counseling services in rural communities, which suffer disproportionately from a lack of mental health care. More than 75 students from across the country applied for the six 2018 rural scholarships.

As a rural scholarship recipient, Contreras will receive \$8,000 to support his counseling education and recognize his commitment to the underserved. A graduate of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Contreras is currently a master's student in the school counseling program at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. As a school counselor, Contreras intends to work with Latinx and other students of color in rural communities. Contreras wants to improve the mental health stigma in these communities and schools that prevents students from utilizing appropriate services. With the NBCC rural scholarship, Contreras will be able to attend school counseling conferences so he can learn about evidence-based strategies to improve school climate and establish healthy student-parent-teacher relationships.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded six \$8,000 [military scholarships](#) to increase the number of counselors serving fellow military personnel, veterans, and their families. The Foundation plans to continue offering scholarships to increase the number of counselors in the areas where they are needed most and will open the next application period in fall 2018. For more information or to make a gift in support of scholars like these, please visit www.nbccf.org.

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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