

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### JJ Jackson Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Jacksonville, FL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected JJ Jackson of Jacksonville, Florida, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y Fellow, Jackson will receive funding and training to support their education and facilitate their 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 Jackson and the 29 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Jackson is a graduate of Bethune-Cookman University, in Daytona Beach, Florida, and is currently pursuing a master's in the clinical mental health counseling program at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, in Illinois. Upon graduation, Jackson intends to work with transition-age minority youth, specifically those who identify within the Queer Person of Color spectrum. They would also like to work with individuals, particularly marginalized transition-aged youth of color who have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and are living in poverty, where access to mental health and supportive care is almost obsolete. Jackson plans to open a private practice specifically tailored toward the unique needs of LGBTQ+ transition-aged youth and minority young adults. Acquiring this fellowship will allow Jackson to expand their reach to an international scale, attend counseling conferences to establish a stronger, emerging professional identity as a counselor, influence an interdisciplinary dialogue regarding mental health for LGBTQ transition-age youth, and learn evidence-based/creative practices to better serve underserved populations and advocate for the counseling profession.

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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