

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Sondra R. Siegfried Receives Rural Scholarship From the NBCC Foundation



Rome, PA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. (NBCC), recently awarded a \$8,000 2017 NBCC Foundation rural scholarship to Sondra R. Siegfried, of Rome, Pennsylvania. 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. Nearly 100 students from across the country applied for the five 2017 rural scholarships.

As a rural scholarship recipient, Siegfried will receive \$8,000 to support her counseling education and recognize her commitment to the underserved. A graduate of Eastern Mennonite University, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, Siegfried is currently a master's student in the school counseling program at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Siegfried intends to work with underprivileged and at-risk kids in Bradford county, a rural county in Pennsylvania. In addition to the school counseling certification, she plans to obtain her professional counseling licensure so that she can eventually offer private counseling to children and youth. Her hope is to open a part-time private practice that will use wilderness and adventure elements in counseling children and youth. Siegfried has spent time volunteering with at-risk and Native-American youth in the upper peninsula of Michigan, and she would eventually like to obtain her counseling licensure in Michigan to provide short-term intensive wilderness and adventure therapy services in that area.

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 September 2017. For more information or to make a gift in support of scholars like these, please visit [www.nbccf.org](http://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 60,000 National Certified Counselors (NCCs) 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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