

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Deborah Osborne Awarded \$5,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Nashville, TN—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Deborah Osborne of Shreveport, Louisiana, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y Fellow, Osborne will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her 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 available number of culturally competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$5,000 to Osborne and the 39 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Osborne is a graduate of Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, and is currently a master's student in the school counseling program at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Osborne intends to continue working with high school students from truly diverse backgrounds upon graduation. The overwhelming majority of the students she currently works with are classified as coming from a low socioeconomic background, and she intends to continue working with this population. The fellowship will be instrumental in helping her gain practical skills and increasing her theoretical knowledge of the best practices to use with students facing issues of poverty and discrimination. She also has high hopes to provide more information and resources to the students and parents she works with, and this fellowship will provide not only learning opportunities through conferences, but also a professional learning community for which she is already grateful.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-Y application period in September 2015. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, 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 55,000 National 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.