



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Jimia D. Stokes Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**

University Park, IL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Jimia D. Stokes, of Frankfort, IL, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Stokes will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her addictions counseling service to underserved minority transition-age youth (ages 16–25).



The NBCC MFP-AC 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-AC, 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 \$11,000 to Stokes and the other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Stokes is a graduate of Texas Woman's University, in Denton, and is currently a master's student in the alcohol and drug counseling program at Governors State University, in University Park, Illinois. Upon graduation, she plans to serve underserved youth between the ages of 18 and 25. This fellowship will help her to provide counseling services to individuals who have transitioned out of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and those who are involved in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-AC 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.

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