

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Charmaine L. Conner Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Little Rock, AR—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Charmaine L. Conner, of Little Rock, Arkansas, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Conner will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations.

The NBCC MFP is made possible by a grant first awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in August 2012. The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the NBCC MFP, 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 strengthen the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally

competent services to underserved populations.

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$20,000 to Conner and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Conner is a graduate of Arkansas State University, in Jonesboro, and of the University of Memphis, in Tennessee, and is currently a doctoral student in the counseling program at the University of North Texas, in Denton. Conner is interested in researching transracial adoption, culturally responsive practices for racial minority clients, and incorporating social justice into counseling pedagogy. Currently, in her doctoral work she has focused on mental health, advocacy, and social justice for underserved minority populations. Providing counseling services to minority populations has expanded her knowledge regarding the stigma of mental health, cultural values, socioeconomic factors, and racial identity development processes. This fellowship will help support Conner's interest in reducing barriers to mental health access as well as providing direct and indirect services to Black transracial adoptees. Furthermore, this fellowship will equip Conner to complete her dissertation focused on Black transracially adopted children.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y) 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 application period in fall 2018. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit 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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