

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Cierra R. Davis Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Baltimore, MD—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Cierra R. Davis, of Baltimore, Maryland, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Davis 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 Davis and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Davis is a graduate of Mary Baldwin University, in Staunton, Virginia, and of Eastern Mennonite University, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and is currently a doctoral student in the counseling and supervision program at James Madison University, in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Davis is currently researching the role of church-based mentoring on the experiences of African-American college students. She believes that it is her responsibility to empower and educate through awareness of the experiences of the unspoken, underrepresented, and powerless. She views counseling and advocacy research as interwoven concepts that enable her to impact the classroom and community. Her research agenda includes exploring the varied needs of students, including those from marginalized groups, mentorship, the advancement of culturally sensitive supervision practices, group counseling techniques, and self-care for helping professionals. This fellowship will enable her to be involved in professional organizations to gain additional knowledge and training in how to effectively serve minority populations in a variety of capacities. It will also help her to gain more research opportunities through outreach, mentorship, direct support, and community engagement.

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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