

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Citlali Estela Molina-Altamirano Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Grand Prairie, TX—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Citlali Estela Molina-Altamirano, of Grand Prairie, Texas, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Molina-Altamirano 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 Molina-Altamirano and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Molina-Altamirano is a graduate of The University of Texas at Arlington and is both a student and graduate of the University of North Texas, in Denton, where she is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in counselor education. Molina-Altamirano is certified as a school counselor and has used her role to advocate for at-risk students, specifically, those who may have substance use issues. She devotes her time, energy, and enthusiasm to the research process and conducting studies to advance the field of addictions counseling and school counseling. She joined the Addictions Counseling Research Team because of the impact substances had on the adolescent population she served. She is currently involved in a research project examining the impact of racial oppression on substance using behaviors. As a result of her passion for research, Molina-Altamirano has three articles published or in press, and has participated in five presentations at counseling conferences. In order to pursue her doctoral degree, she left her position as a school counselor. However, the parents of her community continue to reach out for her support to guide their children in higher education opportunities. Because Molina-Altamirano remains committed to the well-being of racially and ethnically marginalized groups, she is seeking her own consultation education to now develop community-based college and career programs. She is also currently serving underserved adolescent minority populations through direct counseling services at the Counseling and Human Development Center at The University of North Texas. This fellowship will help her continue to concentrate her scholarly pursuits for the betterment of racially and ethnically diverse populations and allow her to continue serving her community.

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](http://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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