

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Leslie Contos Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Chicago, IL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Leslie Contos, of Chicago, Illinois, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Contos 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 Contos and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Contos is a graduate of Fort Hays State University, in Hays, Kansas, and of Northeastern Illinois University, in Chicago, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at Governors State University, in University Park, Illinois. She serves in leadership positions in the Illinois Counseling Association and the Association for Child and Adolescent Counselors in Illinois, and she cofounded a local charter school and a community center. She has worked for four years at Mosaic Therapy, a nonprofit created to serve diverse families in Chicago with a focus on helping the most vulnerable communities. Contos provides counseling services and program coordination at four Chicago Public Schools serving Latino youth, where she explores the application of visual arts and narrative therapy in work with Latino families. She also provides pro bono services to unserved homeschool families. Contos' research agenda focuses on understanding the counseling needs of families schooling their children at home, including those from underrepresented communities and those with special needs children. Contos plans to use funds from the fellowship to finish her doctoral degree, acquire additional training, create a nonprofit providing free and low-cost services for diverse families schooling children at home, and provide training for other counselors to work with Latino and homeschooling families. She looks forward to the opportunities provided by NBCC and is proud to continue to serve diverse communities as she moves into new leadership, supervisory, and counselor educator roles.

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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