

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Raven K. Cokley Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Sarasota, FL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Raven K. Cokley, of Sarasota, Florida, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Cokley 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 Cokley and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Cokley is a graduate of the University of Central Florida, in Orlando, and is both a student and graduate of the University of Georgia, in Athens, where she is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in counselor education and supervision. Cokley is interested in exploring the experiences of high-achieving Black girls from lower-income families, particularly in relation to those from single-parent homes. During Cokley's doctoral practicum experience, she facilitated a high-achiever's group for girls of color from first-generation and lower-income families. Through this initiative, Cokley supported and encouraged girls of color to embrace their brilliance inside and outside of the classroom. Additionally, Cokley is interested in studying the experiences of Black first-generation doctoral students. Through a collaborative digital intervention, FirstGenDocs, Cokley seeks to meet the needs of first-generation scholars in doctoral programs across the nation. Furthermore, Cokley currently serves as the lead researcher on a research team that is dedicated to examining the roles of counselors and counselor educators in the Black Lives Matter movement. Ultimately, Cokley intends to use the support of the NBCC MFP to further her passions of providing culturally-conscious mental health services to underrepresented students by addressing issues of equity and access within school and community settings. She is dedicated to serving her community through her scholarship, outreach, and advocacy services.

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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