

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sarah Voorhees Billingsley Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Cleveland, OH—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Sarah Voorhees Billingsley, of Cleveland, Ohio, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Billingsley will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her addictions counseling service to underserved minority transition-age youth (ages 16–25).

The NBCC MFP-AC is made possible by a grant awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in September 2014. The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the NBCC MFP-AC, 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 reduce health disparities and improve behavioral health care outcomes for racially and ethnically diverse populations by increasing the

available number of culturally competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC MFP will distribute up to \$11,000 to Billingsley and the 33 other master’s-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Billingsley is a graduate of Columbia University, in New York, New York, and is currently a master’s student in the clinical mental health counseling program at John Carroll University, in University Heights, Ohio. Upon graduating, Billingsley will begin work on a PhD in counselor education and supervision at Kent State University, in Ohio. There, she will engage in research relevant to her population of interest, which will in turn be used to inform counselor education, counseling practice, and advocacy. Her interests revolve particularly around improving mental health services to marginalized male populations—men who live in poverty, struggle with addiction, and who are ethnic minorities. In earning this fellowship, Billingsley will have the opportunity to network and collaborate with colleagues as well as experts in the field of addiction treatment, to participate in and benefit from training in evidence-based practices, and to contribute to the continuing effort to provide the most effective service to underserved male clients.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 30 \$8,000 master’s-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-AC application period in fall 2018. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit <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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