

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shaletha L. Richard Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Tyler, TX—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Shaletha L. Richard, of Tyler, Texas, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Richard 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 Richard and the 33 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Richard is a graduate of The University of Oklahoma, in Norman, and is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling program at The University of Texas at Tyler. Upon graduation, Richard intends to work with transition-age minority youth and adolescents, and plans on providing mental health and substance abuse services to underserved communities. She is very passionate and determined to be a catalyst for change within the youth minority population. Earning this fellowship will allow Richard to attend conferences that will help develop her professional identity as a counselor, bring a positive voice to the counseling profession, and help her achieve her ultimate goal of having her own counseling agency.

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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