

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shannon N. Perry-Smith Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Oxford, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Shannon N. Perry-Smith, of Oxford, North Carolina, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Perry-Smith 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 Perry-Smith and the 33 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Perry-Smith is both a student and graduate of North Carolina Central University, in Durham, where she is currently pursuing a master's in clinical mental health counseling. Upon graduation, Perry-Smith intends on working with transition-age minority youth by providing substance abuse treatment to those who are underserved. She would also like to provide assistance to their communities that lack mental health services because of limited resources. Some of the goals that will be achieved with the help of this fellowship are creating a strong professional identity as a counselor and participating in counseling conferences that will enhance Perry-Smith's ability to learn how to serve underserved transition-age youths. Earning this fellowship will not only allow Perry-Smith to be an advocate for the counseling profession but also to be an advocate for the population that she will be serving.

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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