

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Barbara J. Eiland-Flowers Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



Ridgeland, MS—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Barbara J. Eiland-Flowers, of Ridgeland, Mississippi, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC fellow, Flowers 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 Flowers and the 17 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Flowers is a graduate of William Carey College, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and is both a student and graduate of Mississippi College, in Clinton, where she is currently pursuing a master's in marriage and family counseling. Upon completion of postgraduate studies, Flowers' initial goals are working within the substance abuse and/or addictive behaviors of minority-focused adolescents and young adults. Concurrently, she would also like to work with children and other ethnically marginalized populations, particularly divorced and single-parent families in which access to mental health services are typically lacking. Earning this fellowship will afford Flowers the opportunity to attend counseling conferences to establish a stronger professional identity while building on her previous experience, thus enhancing her overall proficiency as a counselor; learn more evidence-based practices to better serve underserved populations; and equally important, become a more conscientious advocate for the counseling profession.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program, 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y) program, and 31 additional [MFP-AC](#) fellowships this year. The Foundation will open the next NBCC Minority Fellowship Program application period in September 2017. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit [www.nbccf.org/programs/scholarships](http://www.nbccf.org/programs/scholarships).

#### 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 63,000 National 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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