

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ecclesia Holmes Awarded \$5,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Atlanta, GA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Ecclesia Holmes of Jonesboro, Georgia, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y Fellow, Holmes will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations, with a specific focus on transition age youth (ages 16–25).



The NBCC MFP-Y 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-Y, 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 \$5,000 to Holmes and the 39 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Holmes is both a student and graduate of Georgia State University in Atlanta, where she is pursuing a master's degree in the mental health counseling program. Upon graduation, Holmes intends to serve minorities and specialize in trauma and play therapy. She will continue to work at Day League, a rape crisis center, and serve the women there while also assisting women through her nonprofit organization, My Soul 2 Keep. This fellowship will assist Holmes in obtaining additional certifications and training to become better equipped to serve minority populations. In addition, she will be able to host free workshops that teach things like managing stress, effective parenting and self-appreciation.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-Y application period in September 2015. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit www.nbccf.org.

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 55,000 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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