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## PRESS RELEASE

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## Jamie Rice Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Harrisonburg, VA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Jamie Rice, of Harrisonburg, Virginia, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Rice will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations.



The NBCC MFP is made possible by a grant first awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in August 2012. The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the NBCC MFP, as well as training and collaboration activities, such as <u>webinars</u>, that are open to all National Certified Counselors (NCCs). The goal of the program is to strengthen the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors providing affective, culturally

counseling and increases the number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally competent services to underserved populations.

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$20,000 to Rice and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Rice is a graduate of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at James Madison University. Her research interests include interpersonal violence and trauma, specifically counselor education and supervision approaches to developing counselor competence in addressing issues of interpersonal violence and trauma. She currently works as a counselor at two Title I elementary schools in rural West Virginia. She is committed to bringing quality mental health and substance abuse services to underserved populations, particularly those who are uninsured or have limited financial resources. The community where she works has limited access to mental health care due to lack of resources and economic strain. The schools where she works have not had a full-time counselor for eight years. This fellowship will allow her to continue to work in her current setting as well as acquire materials that will substantially enhance the school counseling program.

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

#### 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.