

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Jerrica McDonald Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Greensboro, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Jerrica McDonald, of Greensboro, NC, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, McDonald 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 <u>webinars</u>, 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 \$11,000 to McDonald and the other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. McDonald is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, in Greensboro. Upon graduation, she intends to serve minorities impacted by various forms of addiction. Her goal with the fellowship is to create the tools necessary to serve underserved individuals who are dealing with the effects of addiction. Her hope is to work directly with minorities to discover approaches that will enhance their counseling experience and serve as a source of enlightenment for herself as a counselor.

The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-AC 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.

