

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Juanita Barnett Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Auburn, AL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Juanita Barnett, of Montgomery, Alabama, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Barnett 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 [webinars](#), 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 effective, culturally competent services to underserved populations.

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$20,000 to Barnett and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Barnett is a graduate of Florida State University in Tallahassee and of Alabama State University in Montgomery and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at Auburn University in Alabama. Barnett is currently interested in researching the correlations of mental health and physical disabilities in minority populations, a comparison of African-American females to Caucasian females, the stigmas and barriers associated with mental health and physical disabilities that prevent minority populations from independently seeking services, and how to challenge these barriers. She is currently a graduate assistant at the Auburn Transition Leadership Institute, where one of her roles is serving high school students with disabilities through community-based instruction teaching skills for the workplace. She is also currently a practicum student serving minorities through counseling services. This fellowship will help Barnett to become more involved in her research area through direct service, community involvement, advocacy for underserved minority populations, education and training, and even outreach activities. This fellowship will also help her to get involved with professional organizations and receive further training to competently provide services to underserved minority populations.

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 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.