

## PRESS RELEASE

*NBCC Foundation*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### LaKaavia Taylor Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Denton, Texas—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected LaKaavia Taylor, of Dallas, Texas, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Taylor 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 Taylor and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Taylor is both a graduate and student of the University of North Texas in Denton, where she is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program. Her research area is play therapy with African-American children with a focus on racial identity, behavioral problems and cultural strengths. Her primary goals for this fellowship award are to gain mentorship from professionals dedicated to serving underserved populations, to continue the advancement of her clinical counseling skills and competence to meet the unique needs of African-American children, to conduct play therapy experimental studies to improve counseling interventions, to add to the limited literature regarding mental health services for African-American children, and to disseminate knowledge and findings through conference presentations and scholarly writing. Her overall goals are to reduce the barriers in mental health for African-American children and increase access to culturally appropriate counseling services for this underserved population.

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](http://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.