

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Melanie Varney Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Atlanta, GA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Melanie Varney, of Gainesville, Florida, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Varney 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 Varney and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Varney is a graduate of the University of Florida in Gainesville and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and practice program at Georgia State University in Atlanta. Her research areas include social privilege and oppression, the experiences of students of color in counseling programs, systemic racism, the long-term effects of racism, and intersectionality. She is currently working on her pre-dissertation work with participating students of color who recently graduated from counseling programs. She plans to work with racial, ethnic, sexual and gender minorities during her clinical internship. In academia, she also plans to intentionally mentor and recruit students of color into counseling programs. This fellowship will help her connect with the other Fellows and mentors nationally who share a similar focus on social justice and advocacy. It will also help her travel to various conferences to spread awareness and knowledge of the diverse needs of minority populations. She hopes to gain more opportunities to engage in dialogue surrounding multicultural concerns with other professionals in order to advance the profession of counseling.

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.