

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2015

Stacey L. Olden Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Columbia, SC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Stacey L. Olden, of Columbia, South Carolina, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Olden 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 Olden and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Olden is a graduate of York College/The City University of New York and of South Carolina State University in Orangeburg and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at the University of South Carolina (USC) in Columbia. As a part of her doctoral program, she is providing career development and wellness counseling to first-generation students at USC. She plans to provide similar services to LGBTQ students at the university in the future and to conduct research that will inform school, career, counseling center and community counselors on best practices to improve career readiness and college adjustment and success with first-generation students and LGBTQ students. An important issue to Olden that she has advocated for in the past and that will continue to drive her present and future work is addressing diversity in counseling through implementation of training practices in counselor education programs to alleviate the challenges minority counselors face and empower them to establish a strong professional identity that propels them toward professional advancement and equips them with the tools and competence to effectively serve marginalized 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.