

## PRESS RELEASE

*NBCC Foundation*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Taheera Blount Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates

Raleigh, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Taheera Blount, of Durham, North Carolina, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Blount 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 Blount and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Blount is a graduate of Barton College in Wilson, North Carolina, and of North Carolina Central University in Durham and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education program at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Her research areas consist of exploring the role of spirituality among African-American women in long-term recovery from substance abuse. Currently, she serves as a licensed clinician for children, adolescents and adults with co-occurring mental health disorders. Her previous experience consists of working with Durham Public Schools as a professional school counselor, clinical case manager and mental health technician. This fellowship will help Ms. Blount to increase her knowledge of effective treatment strategies, explore alternative forms of healing among African-American women in recovery from substance abuse, collaborate with researchers in the field of addiction, and continue her commitment to working with underserved racial and ethnic populations in the United States and abroad.

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.