

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Antoinette L. Oliver Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



Pine Bluff, AR—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Antoinette L. Oliver, of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Oliver will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her addictions counseling service to underserved minority transition-age youth (ages 16–25).

The NBCC MFP-AC is made possible by a grant awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in September 2014. The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the NBCC MFP-AC, 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 reduce health disparities and improve behavioral health care outcomes for racially and ethnically diverse populations by increasing the

available number of culturally competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC MFP will distribute up to \$11,000 to Oliver and the 33 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Oliver is both a student and graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, where she is currently pursuing a master's in addiction studies. Upon graduation, Oliver intends to work with troubled youth between the ages of 12–19 in the Pine Bluff and surrounding areas. Her goal is to spread awareness on the effects of substance abuse through mentoring, education, and prevention programs. This fellowship would allow Oliver the opportunity to attend different trainings, network with those in her field, and grant her the chance to better serve her community.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-AC application period in fall 2018. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit <http://www.nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows>.

#### 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 64,000 board-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.

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