

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Christie J. Serns Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Tomah, WI—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Christie J. Serns, of Tomah, Wisconsin, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Serns 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 Serns and the 33 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Serns is a graduate of Ashford University, in Clinton, Iowa, and is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling program with a concentration in addictions at Walden University, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Upon graduation, Serns intends to work with marginalized, underserved youth populations in the judicial system that are suffering with addiction. Recidivism rates are high for those who are suffering with addiction because of the lack of rehabilitative treatment options. Her intent is to work with newly released clients by offering recovery, treatment, and mental health services. Earning this fellowship will allow Serns to advocate for underserved marginalized populations suffering with addiction, study research-based programs focusing on prevention, and expand her professional identity as a counselor.

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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