

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Ella Shepherd Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates**



Orlando, FL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Ella Shepherd of Orlando, Florida, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y Fellow, Shepherd will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations, with a specific focus on transition-age youth (ages 16–25).

The NBCC MFP-Y 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-Y, 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

number of available culturally competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$8,000 education awards to Shepherd and the 29 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Shepherd is a graduate of Stetson University, in DeLand, Florida, and of Saint Martin's University, in Lacey, Washington, and is currently pursuing a master's in the clinical mental health counseling program at the University of Central Florida, in Orlando. Shepherd's mission in undertaking a career in counseling is to be a change agent, to form bonds of allyship, and to bring the resources and benefits of mental health care to everyone, especially those in need. She has always felt a strong calling to serve, counsel, empower, and advocate for communities and individuals who are marginalized by the systemic, oppressive structures of our society. Since moving to Orlando, Shepherd has been drawn to the Parramore Historic district, a community that has been shaped by historic and present-day racism. When Shepherd imagines how she'll work with underserved, racial minority communities, she sees herself in Parramore. Shepherd looks forward to working with underserved, racial minority youth now and beyond graduation, and, as she sees it, fulfilling her own humanity.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 34 master's-level fellowships of up to \$11,000 through the [MFP-Addictions Counselors](#) (MFP-AC). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-Y 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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