

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Halla Savannah Kathleen Kiser Receives Rural Scholarship From the NBCC Foundation



Saint Paul, VA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. (NBCC), recently awarded an \$8,000 2018 NBCC Foundation rural scholarship to Halla Savannah Kathleen Kiser, of Saint Paul, Virginia. The rural scholarship is awarded to counseling students who are from rural communities and commit to practicing in rural areas upon graduation.

The mission of the NBCC Foundation is to leverage the power of counseling by strategically focusing resources for positive change. The Foundation created the rural scholarship in 2009 to improve access to counseling services in rural communities, which suffer disproportionately from a lack of mental health care. More than 75 students from across the country applied for the six 2018 rural scholarships.

As a rural scholarship recipient, Kiser will receive \$8,000 to support her counseling education and recognize her commitment to the underserved. Kiser is a graduate of The University of Virginia's College at Wise and is both a student and graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she is currently pursuing a master's in the clinical mental health counseling program. Kiser intends to return to her home in Central Appalachia to give back to the community that has given her so much. Her community has been ravaged by the opioid crisis that is overtaking America, and she plans to help people with addictions who have been jailed instead of receiving proper treatment. She believes that with the appropriate care, recidivism and overdose rates will decrease, and she is interested in working with the local drug court programs to provide mental health care. Kiser would like to implement a program to provide better access to mental health care involving virtual and in-home counseling for those with transportation limitations. She is a person-centered counselor who utilizes her clients' creativity in the counseling process, using art and music exercises during the therapeutic process to unlock her clients' strengths and to build a strong client-counselor alliance. Kiser intends to work with her community leaders to devise strategic plans that will deter and prevent drug abuse and to provide support for families of people with addictions.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded six \$8,000 [military scholarships](#) to increase the number of counselors serving fellow military personnel, veterans, and their families. The Foundation plans to continue offering scholarships to increase the number of counselors in the areas where they are needed most and will open the next application period in fall 2018. For more information or to make a gift in support of scholars like these, 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 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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