

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LaShawn Meri Adams Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Newark, NJ—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected LaShawn Meri Adams of Newark, New Jersey, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y Fellow, Adams 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 Adams and the 29 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Adams is a graduate of Rutgers University, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and is currently pursuing a master's in the clinical mental health counseling program at Montclair State University, in New Jersey. Upon graduation, Adams intends to work with transition-age inner city women of color in order to help them navigate through the systematic and oppressive barriers that hinder their full potential. Earning this fellowship will allow Adams the opportunity to build a foundation that will open doors not only for her, but for everyone she will have the privilege of working with in the future. This fellowship will open Adams up to an array of counselors and professionals that will help in guiding her into a successful career as a counselor. She has achieved this fellowship only because of all the women of color whose shoulders she stood on so that she could survive the obstacles she faced while growing up in a marginalized community. Adams will be able to pay forward everything that she will learn through this fellowship to the women that she will encounter postgraduation and through her pursuit of becoming a doctoral candidate.

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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