

PRESS RELEASE

NBCC Foundation
3 Terrace Way
Greensboro, NC 27403-3660
Phone: 336-232-0376
www.nbccf.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Leah N. Stone Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Baton Rouge, LA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Leah N. Stone of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y Fellow, Stone 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 Stone and the 29 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Stone is both a student and graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University, in Hammond, where she is pursuing a master's in clinical mental health counseling. Upon graduation, Stone aims to serve marginalized transition-age minority youth within urban areas that are often underserved. Stone would also like to work specifically with ethnic minorities that have experienced trauma. This fellowship will allow her to receive training through conferences that allow her to gain awareness, knowledge, and skills necessary to developing her professional identity and multicultural competence. She also hopes to display advocacy that addresses the stigma associated with mental health and to promote wellness and growth mentally.

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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