

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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Mary E. Huffstead Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Atlanta, GA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Mary E. Huffstead, of Atlanta, Georgia, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Huffstead will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations.

The NBCC MFP is made possible by a grant first awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in August 2012. The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the NBCC MFP, 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 strengthen the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally

competent services to underserved populations.

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$20,000 to Huffstead and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Huffstead is a graduate of Indiana State University, in Terre Haute, and of Auburn University, in Alabama, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and practice program at Georgia State University, in Atlanta. Huffstead is interested in researching multiracial individuals' experiences and/or perceptions of counseling. She worked as a counselor for a community-based setting in Georgia where she provided in-home therapy to “at-risk,” primarily minority, children who had open cases with the Department of Children and Family Services. Last year, she completed a yearlong clinical internship at LifeSafe Resources (originally the YWCA of Northwest Georgia), which services women and children who have experienced domestic violence and sexual assault. She is currently a doctoral counseling intern at the Atlanta Mission, a community-based agency serving individuals that experience home insecurity. She provides individual and group play therapy to children, ages 3 to 7 years old, who are exhibiting trauma symptomology. This fellowship will help Huffstead contribute to the literature related to bringing focus to economically disadvantaged and traumatized Black youth and biracial/multiracial individuals' identity and mental health implications. This fellowship will also assist her with attending conferences and trainings toward further development as a competent professor and mental health clinician working with underserved minority populations.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y) 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 application period in fall 2018. To learn more about the NBCC MFP and its fellows, please visit 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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