

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Melissa Lynne Belyea Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Naples, FL—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Melissa Lynne Belyea, of Naples, Florida, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Belyea will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her addictions counseling service to underserved minority transition-age youth (ages 16–25).

The NBCC MFP-AC 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-AC, 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

available number of culturally competent behavioral health professionals.

The NBCC MFP will distribute up to \$11,000 to Belyea and the 33 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Belyea is a graduate of the University of Central Florida, in Orlando, and is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling program at Hodges University, in Naples, Florida. Upon graduation, Belyea intends to work with transition-age minority youth and those young people in her community who are most at risk for developing addictions. Belyea would also like to work closely with the LGBTQ community and serve those young people who identify within the gender and sexual/affective minority spectrum. She also intends to work with young people from ethnic minorities who may be living in underserved rural areas. Earning this fellowship will allow Belyea to attend counseling conferences to establish a stronger professional identity as a counselor, learn evidence-based practices to better serve her local community, and advocate for the counseling profession.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 [doctoral fellowships](#) through the Minority Fellowship Program and 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the [MFP-Youth](#) (MFP-Y). The Foundation plans to open the next NBCC MFP-AC 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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