

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nicholas Ryan Lazzareschi Awarded \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Anaheim, CA—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Nicholas Ryan Lazzareschi of Anaheim, California, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth (MFP-Y). As an NBCC MFP-Y Fellow, Lazzareschi will receive funding and training to support his education and facilitate his 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 Lazzareschi and the 29 other master's-level counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Lazzareschi is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, and is currently pursuing a master's in the counseling program at California State University, Fullerton. Upon graduation, Lazzareschi intends to work with ethnic minorities that have become involved with the justice system. Specifically, he plans to work with adolescents and young adults who typically have less access to mental health services, and he further aims to reduce recidivism by implementing a strengths-based approach. By accepting this fellowship, Lazzareschi will attend counseling conferences, additional trainings, and learn how to integrate evidence-based practices into his work with this population.

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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