

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shana J. Gelin Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Willingboro, NJ—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Shana J. Gelin, of Willingboro, New Jersey, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Gelin 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 Gelin and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Gelin is a graduate of Rider University, in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and is currently a doctoral student in the counseling and counselor education program at Syracuse University, in New York. She continues to work on her research interest in understanding the experiences of Afro-Caribbean college students and their self-identity development. Gelin is the graduate assistant for mentoring programs at the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) at Syracuse University. At OMA, she completes the mission of the office by providing support to underrepresented racial and ethnic undergraduate students through mentorship and assistance with academic support, social development, and multicultural competency. She is also an internship student at Syracuse University Counseling Center and a doctoral supervisor for students pursuing their master's in counseling within her academic department. Gelin has experience teaching in multiple counseling courses, including sociocultural counseling. She believes that this fellowship will enhance her passion for providing services to underrepresented populations through leadership, research, training, and professional development. Gelin is confident that this program will not only allow her to make connections to other professionals who are committed to these populations, but grow a continued understanding that doing this work together will bring tremendous change to the counseling profession.

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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