

PRESS RELEASE

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2018

Shirah Dawn Canaga Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Myrtle Point, OR—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Shirah Dawn Canaga, of Myrtle Point, Oregon, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Canaga 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 Canaga and the 33 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Canaga is a graduate of the University of Oregon, in Eugene, and is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling program at Northwest Christian University, in Eugene, Oregon. Upon graduation, Canaga intends to work with transition-age youth who experience trauma, crisis, addiction, and career loss. Canaga plans on using her academic coursework and counseling experience to help provide consistent crisis intervention, substance use prevention, career counseling, grief counseling, and strength-based interventions. She plans on working as a counselor in Oregon to provide a person-centered approach to help individuals make their own choices to move toward a healthy lifestyle by implementing evidence-based practices. Earning this fellowship will allow Canaga to attend counseling conferences to establish a stronger professional identity as a counselor and advocate for the counseling profession. This fellowship will provide Canaga with the opportunity to learn techniques to better serve underserved populations and individuals who experience addiction.

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.

###