

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shreya Vaishnav Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Greensboro, NC—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Shreya Vaishnav, of Greensboro, North Carolina, for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP Fellow, Vaishnav 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 Vaishnav and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Vaishnav is a graduate of Duquesne University, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and of Arizona State University, in Tempe, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Vaishnav is from Mumbai, India, where she spent the first 18 years of her life. Growing up in a developing country and migrating to the U.S. has been a path filled with challenges, as well as opportunities, that have contributed to her personal and professional growth. Her clinical and academic focus on social justice advocacy and racial microaggressions is a result of these cumulative experiences as an immigrant woman of color in the U.S. Vaishnav is working as a doctoral intern in the Trauma Center at the Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She provides clinical services to patients who have been hospitalized due to alcohol-related and other traumatic injuries. Her clinical services include trauma-focused counseling, grief counseling, and screening and brief intervention to patients who are often members of marginalized groups. Vaishnav believes that this fellowship will advance her goals of reducing health disparities for racial and ethnic minorities and assist in promoting mental health policies catered toward the needs of this population. In addition to academic advancement, mentorship, and networking opportunities, Vaishnav will use this fellowship to focus on culturally competent delivery of mental health services to the substance abuse population.

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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