

PRESS RELEASE

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sunanda M. Sharma Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Asbury Park, NJ—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Sunanda M. Sharma, of Asbury Park, New Jersey, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Sharma 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 Sharma and the 33 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Sharma is a graduate of Boston University, in Massachusetts, and is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling program at Monmouth University, in West Long Branch, New Jersey. Upon graduation, Sharma intends to work with transition-age minority youth, particularly those who struggle with addiction, in order to provide equitable services to this marginalized population. Earning this fellowship will allow Sharma to learn about the newest evidence-based practices and to connect and collaborate with her colleagues by attending counseling conferences. Sharma also intends to pursue doctoral studies in counseling in order to continue learning how to be an advocate for and deliver services to underserved populations.

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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