PRESS RELEASE

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Sydney Yvonne Kent Awarded \$11,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



Euclid, OH—The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Sydney Yvonne Kent, of Euclid, Ohio, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Kent 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 Kent and the 33 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Kent is a graduate of Cleveland State University, in Ohio, and is currently a master's student in the clinical mental health counseling program at John Carroll University, in University Heights, Ohio. Upon graduation, Kent intends to work with transition-aged youth who have utilized addictive behaviors as a means to cope with their circumstances. She is also interested in working with victims of human trafficking. As a recipient of this fellowship, Kent will be able to obtain the knowledge of evidence-based practices to enhance her counseling skills to optimally serve and advocate for those in need of mental health services. She will also be able to build partnerships that will allow her to undoubtedly establish her foundation as a counselor.

The NBCC Foundation has also awarded 23 \$20,000 <u>doctoral fellowships</u> through the Minority Fellowship Program and 30 \$8,000 master's-level fellowships through the <u>MFP-Youth</u> (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 <u>http://www.nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows</u>.

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.