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WKU student from Tompkinsville awarded fellowship

SUBMITTED 20 hrs ago

CHELSEA SPEARS



The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Chelsea Spears, of Tompkinsville, for the NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). As an NBCC MFP-AC Fellow, Spears 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 Spears and the 33 other master's-level addictions counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Spears is both a student and graduate of Western Kentucky University, in Bowling Green, where she is currently pursuing a master's in school counseling. Upon graduation, Spears intends to work with transition-age students in a school setting. She hopes to help adolescent students who have

issues dealing with addictions and substance abuse, particularly in the rural area where she grew up. Earning this fellowship will allow Spears to establish stronger professional relationships and grow to become a better counselor with more skills to serve minority populations through attendance of counseling conferences.

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>.

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